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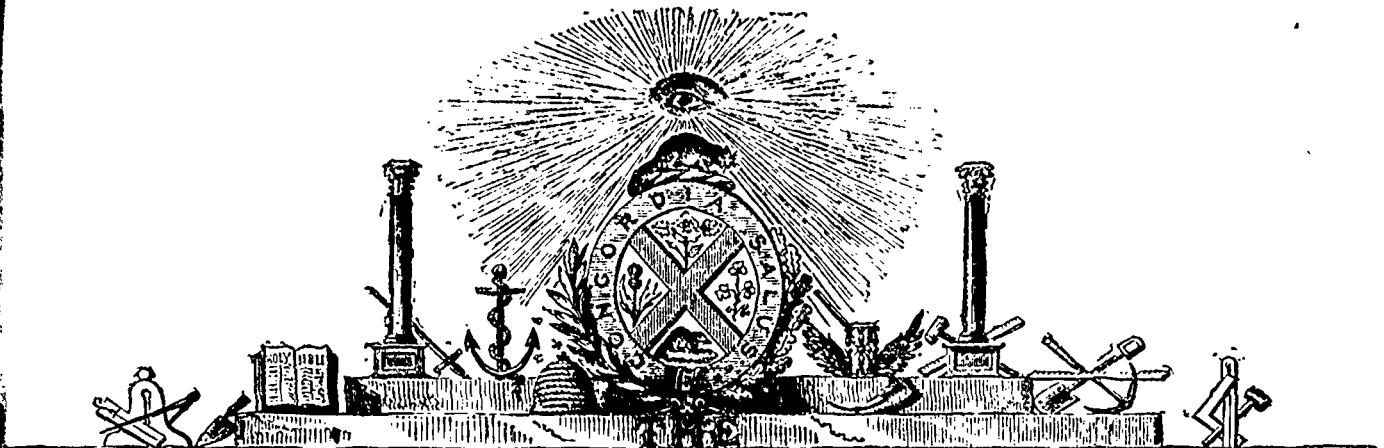
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CANADIAN MASONIC PIONEER.

“Memor et Fidelis.”

VOL. I.] MONTREAL, AUGUST 1, 1856. [No. 3.

Grand Lodge of Canada.

At the first annual communication of the Grand Lodge of ancient free and accepted masons of Canada, held at the Masonic Hall, in the City of Hamilton on Wednesday the 9th day of July, A.D. 1856. A.L. 5856.

PRESENT:—

- The Most Worshipful Bro. W. Mercer Wilson, Grand Master.
- Right Worshipful Bro. A. Bernard, Deputy Grand Master.
- Do do W. C. Stephens, District Deputy Grand Master.
- Do do W. B. Simpson, District Deputy Grand Master.
- Very do Charles Magill, Grand Senior Warden, *pro. tem.*
- Right do James Daniels, Grand Junior Warden
- Do do Rev. Dr. Lundy, Grand Chaplain,
- Do do Wm. Bellhouse, Grand Treasurer.
- Do do T. B. Harris, Grand Secretary.
- Bro. Dr. Duggan, Grand Superintendent Works.
- Very Worshipful Bro. G. L. Allan, Grand Senior Deacon
- Do do Henry Crouse, Grand Junior Deacon
- Do do John Osborne, Grand Director of Ceremonies.
- Do do J. H. Isaacson, Assistant Grand Secretary.
- Do do W. J. Thomas, Grand Organist.
- Do do J. W. Powell, Grand Pursuivant.
- Bro. John Morrison, Grand Tyler.

Past Masters.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| W. Br. Geo. Powell | W. Br. Jno B. Baine. |
| Hiram Fullord | C. Magill |
| W. B. Simpson | W. C. Stephens |
| James Daniel | Thos. B. Harris |
| A. S. Abbott | Elisha Gustin |
| Joseph F. Rolfe | David Brown |
| Geo. Duncan | Rev. F. J. Lundy |
| Joseph Cornick | Wm. Bellhouse |
| Thos. Fletcher | H. B. Butt |
| A. Bernard. | |

And representatives from the following Lodges, viz:—

- Norfolk Lodge,.....Simcoe.
- Sussex do,.....Brockville.
- Prince Edward do,.....Pictou.
- St. John's do,.....London.
- Great Western,.....Windsor.
- Thistle do,.....Amherstburg.
- Wellington do,.....Dunville.
- St. John's do,.....Cayuga.
- St. John's do,.....Hamilton.
- St. George do,.....St. Catherine.
- Harmony do,.....Binbrook.

- St. George do,.....Montreal.
- Social and Military Virtues...Montreal.
- Zetland do,.....Montreal.
- Strict Observance do,.....Hamilton.
- Barton do,.....Hamilton.
- Acacia do,.....Hamilton.
- Prevost do,.....Dunham.
- Union do,.....Grimsby.
- King Solomon's do,.....Toronto.
- Shefford do,.....Waterloo.
- Vaughan do,.....Maple
- Brant do,.....Brantford.
- St. Andrews.....Caledonia.
- Kilwinning.....London.
- Rehobam.....Toronto.
- Jacques Cartier.....Montreal.
- St. Francis.....Melbourne.
- St. Johns.....Ingersoll.
- King.....King.
- Victoria.....Sherbrooke.
- Alma.....Galt.

And a large number of visiting brethren.

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master appointed the following brethren a Committee on Credentials, R. W. Brothers Simpson, Daniels and Harris.

The Grand Lodge was then opened in ample form with solemn prayer.

Worshipful Brother David Brown was introduced and presented his credentials as representative of the most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of the State of Vermont, which the most Worshipful the Grand Master was pleased to receive and confirm.

The minutes of the Convention held on 10th October last, at which the Grand Lodge was established and on the 2nd November following, when the Grand Lodge was consecrated and the Grand Master and Grand Officers were installed and invested, were read and confirmed.

The Grand Master then read the following Address:—

Worshipful Brethren and Brethren,

Nine months have passed away since the brethren met in this city in solemn convocation, for the purpose of taking into their most serious consideration the state and requirements of masonry in this province; the result of their labors was the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Canada. It is unnecessary now to refer to the doubts which agitated the minds of the brethren as to the necessity and propriety of the step which was ultimately decided on, after a long and anxious discussion on the various important points the question involved, and when after a careful research into precedents, the light of truth directed us, without violating

any of our obligations, but acting in strict conformity with the true spirit of them all, to that great result which will be remembered with gratitude by all future generations of Canadian freemasons, and looked upon as the dawn of a new era of masonic prosperity in the Province.

Whilst we have much cause for deep gratitude to T.G.A.O.T.U., for the large measure of success that has already rewarded our zealous labors in the cause of masonry; our path has not been free from difficulties and obstacles. In both sections of the Province there are some brethren, who, regarding the claims of charity and brotherly love, have aspersed the integrity of our motives and sneered at our earnest efforts to advance the interests of our common cause, and unmindful alike of justice and of truth, have characterized us as traitors to the order. But actuated by the true spirit of masonry which has, and I trust ever will direct the actions of this Grand Lodge, your officers have steadily persevered in the conscientious discharge of the important duties intrusted to them, to remove the unfounded prejudices of the ignorant, and to correct or to defy the opposition of the violent. The arduous nature of these duties and the manner in which they have been performed, merits your warmest approval, and I trust that the Lodges will continue to afford them their united and earnest support, to ensure the permanent prosperity and dignified position of the Grand Lodge.

There are many matters of interest and importance to be brought before you at this communication, and your prudent action thereon will secure the future harmonious working of the Grand Lodge. You are fully alive to the necessity of approaching the discussion of those matters in a proper masonic spirit, keeping prominently in view that the good of the craft is the object to which our efforts are directed, and I feel assured that, however, we may individually differ in opinion, as to the best method to be adopted, in order to secure that great end, we shall never forget that as brethren it is our especial duty to work together in harmony, peace and unity.

The amended constitution comes before you as first in importance, and I am satisfied that the Grand Lodge will cordially join with me in saying, that we feel deeply indebted to those brethren who have devoted so much time, care, and ability to the compilation of that important work. I would here refer in an especial manner to the valuable services of R. W. Bro. Stephens, in that and other matters, his advice and co-operation have been of the greatest advantage to our cause, and I have ever found him ready and willing to afford both. At my suggestion printed copies were forwarded to every Lodge for careful consideration,

and that brethren might offer suggestions of such a nature as they thought desirable, these suggestions and amendments have now been reconsidered, and the document as amended will be submitted for your adoption.

Since the last meeting of the Grand Lodge I have officially visited nearly all the Lodges in this part of the province, and in every instance my reception was most kind and fraternal. I would take this opportunity of earnestly impressing upon those brethren who may hereafter fill high positions in Grand Lodge, the necessity and importance of paying frequent visits to the subordinate Lodges, which will not only have the effect of drawing still closer the bonds of brotherhood, but will also satisfy those brethren whose lot has been cast in the more distant and less settled parts of the Province, that we take a deep and lively interest in their masonic welfare and happiness, and that they are indeed members of that great mystic fraternity, which has endured for ages and extends its benefits to the remotest regions of the world.

In the course of my masonic tour I observed with regret that there existed a great diversity in the working of the various Lodges, and conceiving that one uniform system of work is essential to the well being of the craft, I would strongly recommend to your serious consideration whether that object would be best secured by first deciding which system of work now in use shall be permanently adopted, and then promulgating it by Lodges of instruction or by appointed lecturers, or by any other means you may approve. Before quitting this subject I would suggest that the Committee which you may appoint to decide on the mode of work to be followed by the craft in Canada, should be requested also to take into consideration and report upon the propriety of adding the "mark" to the "fellow craft's" degree. It has long been my opinion that the mark is not properly a part of the "arch" degree but belongs to the second degree, and a similar view of the subject appears now to have been taken by the Grand Lodge of England as well as by several other Grand Lodges.

The subject of numbering our subordinate Lodges will also claim your attention during the present session. This is a matter of some importance, and though not unattended with difficulty, I entertain no doubt but that a careful investigation of the subject by a Special Committee will result in a satisfactory conclusion.

I desire warmly to congratulate you upon the prompt and hearty recognition accorded us by the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ireland. As a large number of the subordinate Lodges now affiliated with this Grand Lodge were formerly working under warrants from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the action of that grand body was looked for with much solicitude by us all, and the truly fraternal manner in which the expression of our masonic feelings were appreciated by them, binds us still closer in that bond of brotherly love which I trust will remain unbroken and unstrained so long as the sun and the moon shall endure.

A number of Grand Lodges in the United States, also, have already, in the most fraternal spirit, acknowledged the correctness of our masonic position, whilst a few others have delayed their recognition, out of courtesy to the Grand Lodge of England, waiting until an opinion had been expressed by that Grand Lodge. I am not disposed to condemn the extreme caution exercised by that portion of our sister Grand Lodges in this matter, but will merely say, that whilst the Grand Lodge of England is looked up to by Canadian masons with sentiments of the highest respect and regard, and whilst her approval of the step we have taken will be hailed by all with delight and satisfaction, we do not for a moment admit that her decision in the matter can in any way affect the legality of our position. The correctness of our course has been clearly demonstrated by many of the most distinguished, and best informed, of masonic writers and authorities, and although by some parties our proceedings have been condemned, I have neither met nor heard of a single instance in which any but worthless and specious arguments have been adduced against the correctness of our action, or our present constitutional position.

The present meeting of Grand Lodge has been deferred beyond the appointed time, in the hope that I should have been able to lay before you the reply of the Grand Lodge of England to our Address, I regret, however, to say that up to this time no communication has been received. We must, therefore, confidently hope, that the true spirit of masonry which has ever prominently distinguished the Grand Lodge of England, will so direct their counsels at their next meeting, that they will approve the action we have taken for the security and benefit of the craft in this Province, reciprocate the sincerely fraternal feelings we entertain towards them, and recognize with cheerful satisfaction, their sister Grand Lodge of Canada. I would strongly recommend that until the decision of the Grand Lodge of England shall have been received, the course which has hitherto been pursued towards the members of those Lodges which have not yet affiliated with us should be persevered in, and that we should continue all fraternal offices to those brethren whose conscientious scruples have deterred them from at once joining with us in the establishment of an independent Grand Lodge, feeling assured that when the justice of our cause has become fully understood, the Grand Lodge of Canada will reunite under its banner the whole masonic fraternity of the Province.

I observe by the report of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of New York, in June last, that the M. W. Joseph D. Evans, the Grand Master, in his address to the Grand Lodge stigmatizes us as a spurious Grand Lodge and pronounces us as schismatic and rebellious. He even goes farther than this, and presumes to censure the action of those distinguished Grand bodies, who have acknowledged our masonic existence and position as an independent Grand Lodge.

We have strong reasons for believing that the course taken by Bro. Evans was induced by a circular recently issued by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, wherein it is asserted that the statements contained in our Address to Grand Lodges are not borne out by facts; and this charge, or rather ingeniously arranged misrepresentation, supported by further misrepresentations of parties well known to you to be actuated by personal and interested motives, and to be the agents of the Provincial Grand Lodge, has doubtless misled the Grand Master of New York. I trust we are warranted in the conclusion that the observations of Bro. Evans were made in ignorance of the principal facts connected with our recent movements, for it would, indeed, be painful to me, and I cannot adopt the only other alternative and believe that any statement of a Brother holding the high position of Brother Evans amongst the masons of New York, could have been made with an utter disregard of truth.

This circular of the Provincial Grand Lodge is the first case that has come before me of any one having openly dared to dispute the truth of any statement contained in our Address, which, with a desire that our case should become thoroughly known, was extensively circulated all over this continent. And the first I knew of the existence of the Circular, which appears to have been carefully concealed from us, was a few days since when a distinguished Brother, and leading member of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, informed me that such a Circular had been addressed to them. Since my arrival in this City a copy has been put into my hands and it will presently be laid before you. Had it not been for this evidence I would not have believed that the "Officers" who still cling to the Provincial Grand Lodge would have descended to calumniate our proceedings, which they well know to have been taken on calm reflection, with strictly conscientious motives, and in perfect accordance with the principles of the Constitution of Freemasonry.

In addition to the 2000 miles which I have travelled, exclusively on masonic business, in the Province, since our last meeting, I returned last week from a visit to Kentucky, which involved a journey of 2000 miles more. I visited the Kentucky brethren on their special invitation, and with a desire to make the acquaintance of the leading members of our order in the neighbouring

Republic, and I cannot find words to express the gratification I experienced from the kind and fraternal welcome with which I was received, and the pleasure and advantage I derived from the intercourse with the brethren whom it was my good fortune to meet. These honors and attentions I received as your representative, and it gives me great pleasure to communicate the fact to you.

I desire to recommend to your favorable consideration that important undertaking to which our distinguished Brother Robert Morris has devoted so much time, ability, and capital. I allude to his republication of standard masonic works. By the labour and enterprise of Brother Morris in placing within the reach of all a fund of masonic information, not only in the publication referred to, but also in the valuable periodical conducted under his auspices, a flood of masonic light has been bestowed upon the craft of inestimable benefits to the masons of the present day, and which was quite unknown to our masonic progenitors. There are many other masonic periodicals deserving your warmest support, and Brethren desirous of becoming intelligent working masons, should avail themselves of the opportunity of acquiring the valuable information thus placed within their reach. I cannot quit this subject without expressing the great pleasure I experienced, on the receipt of the 1st number of an ably conducted masonic sheet, published in Montreal under the title of *The Canadian Masonic Pioneer*. The spirit and enterprise displayed by our Montreal brethren in originating this periodical, entitles them to the gratitude of the craft; and well-knowing that it is to be conducted by some of the best informed masons in the Province, we may look forward with confidence to its becoming an invaluable disseminator of masonic light and truth.

Before concluding my address I desire to express my high appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the Grand Lodge and to the craft generally, by our esteemed brother the RW Dr Bernard, the Deputy G. Master. His unwearied exertions, his uniring energy, his talents and his time, have been freely and cheerfully devoted to advance the interest of the Grand Lodge, and entitle him to our grateful thanks. In these remarks I feel assured that I express the feelings of the Grand Lodge.

W. M. WILSON, G.M.

On motion of R. W. Bro. Stephens, seconded by R. W. Bro. Bellhouse, the Grand Master appointed the following brethren a Committee to consider and report on the various subjects embraced in his Address: R. W. Bro. Stephens, W. Bro. Osborne, W. Bro. Abbott, Bro. O'Brien, and Bro. Martin.

Dispensations granted by the Grand Master for the following Lodges, were then confirmed and warrants ordered:—

On motion of RW. Bro. W. B. Simpson, seconded by RW. Bro. Jas. Daniells, for St. Andrews Lodge, Caledonia.

On motion of RW. Bro. Jas. Daniells, seconded by VW. Bro. J. H. Isaacson, for Kilwinning Lodge, London.

On motion of W. Bro. J. Rolfe, seconded by WB. Bro. Abbott, for Rehoboth Lodge, Toronto.

On motion of RW. Bro. A. Bernard, seconded by RW. Bro. Simpson, for St. Francis Lodge, Melbourne.

On motion of VW. Bro. Isaacson, seconded by Bro. Martin, for Jacques Cartier Lodge, Montreal.

On motion of VW. Bro. J. H. Isaacson, seconded by W. Bro. Barker, for St. Johns Lodge, Ingersoll.

On motion of RW. Jas. Daniells, seconded by W. Bro. Rolfe, for King Lodge, King.

On motion of W. Bro. David Brown, seconded by W. Bro. J. Taylor, for Alma Lodge, Galt.

On motion of RW. Bro. Simpson, seconded by W. Bro. Salmony, for Victoria Lodge, Sherbrooke.

A petition from brethren in Kingston for a warrant to form a Lodge to be called the Cataract Lodge, was then read, and on motion referred by the Grand Master to a Committee consisting of R. W. Bros. Bernard, Stephens and Isaacson.

The Grand Lodge called off from labor to refreshment and resumed its sitting at 8 o'clock.

The following Report from the Committee appointed at the Convention on the 12th October last to revise and amend the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Canada was then read.

Your Committee beg leave to report that, after carefully consulting the various masonic authorities and well weighing what appeared to them the wants of the fraternity in Canada, they have compiled and now offer for the consideration of your Grand Lodge, the following amended constitution.—[The Constitution we omit for want of space and as it may be had in pamphlet form.—Ed. C. M. P.]

The amended Constitution, as submitted by the Committee, was then considered *in scrutim*, to page 26.

The Grand Lodge was then called off from labor to refreshment to meet at 10 o'clock the following morning.

THURSDAY, 10TH JULY.

The Grand Lodge resumed its sitting at 10 o'clock.

The consideration, *in scrutim*, of the amended constitution was proceeded with and concluded. When on motion of R.W. Bro. Simpson seconded by W. Bro. Fulford,—“The constitution of the Grand Lodge of Canada submitted by the Committee, and as amended by the Grand Lodge was unanimously confirmed and adopted, and ordered to be printed as the constitution of the Grand Lodge of Canada. And the Most Worshipful the Grand Master appointed the following brethren a committee to prepare it for circulation, namely, R.W. Bros. Stephens and Harris, and V.W. Bro. Osborne.

The Grand Master was pleased to appoint the following brethren a committee, to divide the Province into districts, R.W. Bros. Bernard, Stephens, Lundy, and W. Bro. Moffatt.

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master then announced that the first business of the afternoon sitting of the Grand Lodge, would be the election of Grand Officers for the ensuing masonic year.

The Grand Lodge was then called from labor to refreshment, to meet at 3 p.m.

The Grand Lodge resumed its sitting at 3 p.m. The Grand Master nominated R.W. Bros. Bellhouse and Daniels, and W. Bro. Smith, scrutineers.

The election of Grand Officers was then proceeded with, and the following brethren were duly elected.

The M.W. Bro. W. Mercer Wilson as M.W. Grand Master; R.W. Bro. A. Bernard as R.W. Deputy do.; W. Bro. J. H. Isaacson as R.W. Grand Senior Warden; W. Bro. Charles Magill as R.W. Grand Junior do.; W. Bro. The Rev. St. George Caulfield as Grand Chaplain; R.W. Bro. Wm. Bellhouse as R.W. Grand Treasurer; R.W. Bro. T. B. Harris as R.W. Grand Registrar; V.W. Bro. John Osborne as R.W. Grand Secretary.

An open vote having been taken for Tyler Bro. John Morrison was elected.

The Grand Master then appointed a Committee composed of R. W. Bros. Bernard, Stephens and Simpson, for arranging the number of the various affiliated Lodges according to the respective dates of their formation.

The Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment, to meet at 7 o'clock p.m.

The Grand Lodge resumed its sitting at 8 o'clock p.m.

The Committee appointed on the division of Province into Districts presented their Report, and on motion, it was resolved, that the province be divided into the following seven masonic Districts, namely:—

- The London District.
- Hamilton District.
- Toronto District.
- Central District.
- Montreal District.
- Eastern Township District.
- Quebec District.

On motion of R. W. Bro. Simpson, seconded by R. W. Bro. Stephens, It was unanimously re-

solved;—That the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge be held in the City of Montreal. The Grand Lodge was then called from labor to refreshment, to meet again the following morning at 10 o'clock.

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 11.

The Grand Lodge resumed its sitting at one o'clock.

The committee appointed by the Grand Lodge to arrange the numbers of the warrants of the affiliating lodges presented the following report, which was on motion unanimously adopted.

- No. 1.—Social & Military Virtues, Montreal.
- 2.—Niagara,.....Niagara.
- 3.—Barton,.....Hamilton.
- 4.—Union,.....Grimsby.
- 5.—Norfolk,.....Simcoe.
- 6.—Sussex,.....Brockville.
- 7.—Prevost,.....Dunham.
- 8.—Golden Rule,.....Stanstead.
- 9.—St. George,.....St. Catherine.
- 10.—Prince Edward,.....Picton.
- 11.—Nelson,.....Clarenceville.
- 12.—St. Andrew's,.....St. Andrew's.
- 13.—St. George's,.....Montreal.
- 14.—St. John's,.....London.
- 15.—Zetland,.....Montreal.
- 16.—King Solomon,.....Toronto.
- 17.—Strict Observance,.....Hamilton.
- 18.—St. John's,.....Cayuga.
- 19.—Thistle,.....Amherstburgh.
- 20.—St. John's,.....Hamilton.
- 21.—St. Thomas,.....St. Thomas.
- 22.—Brant,.....Brantford.
- 23.—Great Western,.....Windsor.
- 24.—Wellington,.....Dunnville.
- 25.—Shefford,.....Waterloo.
- 26.—Vaughan,.....Maple.
- 27.—Harmony,.....Binbrook.
- 28.—Wellington,.....Stratford.
- 29.—Hoyle,.....La Colle.
- 30.—Acacia,.....Hamilton.
- 31.—St. Andrew's,.....Caledonia.
- 32.—Kilwinning,.....London.
- 33.—Rehoboam,.....Toronto.
- 34.—Jacques Cartier,.....Montreal.
- 35.—St. Francis,.....Melbourne.
- 36.—St. John's,.....Ingersoll.
- 37.—King,.....King.
- 38.—Victoria,.....Sherbrooke.
- 39.—Alma,.....Galt.

Several Lodges were not numbered in consequence of having failed to make the requisite returns as to the date of their formation.

The Grand Lodge was then called from labor to refreshment till half-past three o'clock p.m.

The Grand Lodge resumed its sitting at half-past three p.m.

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master was pleased to confirm the nomination of R. W. Bro. P. D. Brown as District Deputy Grand Master for the Montreal District. Of R. W. Bro. James Daniels, as D.D.G.M. for the London District. Of R. W. Bro. W. C. Stephens, as D.D.G.M. for the Hamilton District. Of R. W. Bro. G. L. Allen, as D.D.G.M. for the Toronto District. Of R. W. Bro. W. B. Simpson, as D.D.G.M. for the Central District.

The Grand Master was then pleased to appoint the following brethren:

- V.W. Bro. J. Jas. Moffat, Grand Senior Deacon;
- V.W. Bro. J. E. Smith, Grand Junior Deacon;
- V.W. Bro. T. J. Rastrick, Grand Superintendent of Works;
- V.W. Bro. J. C. Spence Director of Ceremonies;
- V.W. Bro. R. A. Malcolm, Assistant Grand Secretary;
- V.W. Bro. G. W. Powell, Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies;
- V.W. Bro. J. W. Haldimand, Grand Sword Bearer;
- V.W. Bro. W. T. Thomas, Grand Organist;
- V.W. Bro. R. J. Fowler, Assistant Grand Organist;
- V.W. Bro. Samuel Ross, Grand Pursuivant;
- V.W. Bros. E. Morris, Dr. Fowler, A. S. Abbot, Dr. Hy. Crouse, Tho. Fletcher, J. R. Curroll, Dr. Barker, H. L. Martin, Grand Stewards.

The Grand Officers for the coming masonic year were then installed, invested, and proclaimed in due and ancient form.

R.W. Bro. Lundy gave notice that he would at the next meeting move, seconded by R.W. Bro. G. H. Allan,—That so much of the Constitution of this Grand Lodge as restricts a brother from being a member of more than one Lodge be repealed.

The Committee appointed to consider the application of the brethren in Kingston for a warrant for the Catarqui Lodge, then presented the following Report, which was, on motion of Bro. Martin, seconded by R.W. Bro. Daniels, unanimously adopted.

“That your Committee consider it to be the imperative duty of the Grand Lodge to require in every case a perfect compliance with its Constitution, and therein they find it provided that every application for a warrant to hold a new Lodge must be recommended by the officers of some regular Lodge, and also, that the place of holding the meetings of the Lodge shall be stated in the petition. These conditions have not been complied with in the petition referred to, and your Committee conceiving that it is not in the power of the Grand Lodge, without special resolution to dispense with these requirements recommended that the application be returned to the Brethren by the Grand Secretary, with a request that these omissions may be supplied, and that a warrant or dispensation should then be granted.”

The committee appointed on the address of the Grand Master read the following report, the consideration of which was deferred to the evening sitting.

Report of Committee on the Address of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master.

Your Committee beg leave to report—

That the address of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master contains matter of the greatest importance to, and deeply affecting the vital interest of our Grand Lodge, and the craft in general in this Province.

That the report of our progress so far, and of our present position is highly gratifying, and should call forth an earnest expression of our heartfelt gratitude to the great Architect of the Universe for the blessings of Heaven that have been so bountifully and freely shed on our path. While the difficulties with which we have had and may still have to contend should only have the effect which was doubtless their design, to call forth increased vigilance, to prevent our slumbering at our posts, and if possible, to stimulate us to still greater exertion in the cause of our beloved order.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, your Grand Lodge is indebted for his devotion and zeal in visiting the Subordinate Lodges, and every where maintaining the dignity of his position. The most cordial concurrence must be left by your Grand Lodge in the sentiments expressed in the Address, of the sense of obligation towards the members composing the various Committees, in whose hands, the business of the Grand Lodge was placed, especially to the advice and assistance of R. W. Bro. Stephens, the value of which could only be enhanced by the willing and constant manner in which it has been rendered.

To the various Officers of the Grand Lodge, and particularly to the Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master, Bro. Bernard, much of its present position of prosperity is due, for the untiring zeal and ability with which their duties have been performed. Your committee would deem it only necessary further on this point to remark, that your present meeting of Grand Lodge, in itself displays the essential elements of prosperity and success, in the good feeling and brotherly love which have prevailed, no matter how wide the difference of opinion on the various subjects under discussion, or how earnest the arguments in their support.

Of the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the parent of a number of your affiliating Lodges, your Committee would desire to make honorable mention. The first, of our parent Grand Lodges, to extend to us the right hand of fellowship, to express their belief in the integrity of our motives, and to entertain and appreciate our assurances that the welfare and progress, aye, even the existence itself of masonry in this Pro-

vince reign paramount in our hearts, acknowledging the correctness of our proceedings even to the annulling of old and still revered authority for this prompt and truly fraternal treatment your Grand Lodge cannot entertain nor express too deep a sense of gratitude.

Your committee would express their confidence that the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland, composed as they are of most enlightened and generous brethren, will, before our next communication, have also admitted the justice of our cause, and recognised our constitutional position.

To the several Grand Lodges in the United States, who have acknowledged the legitimacy of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and with whom we are now in fraternal communication, the cordial feelings of your Grand Lodge should be expressed. May the Supreme Ruler of the universe grant that "prospering they may prosper," to the diffusion of light and knowledge throughout their respective districts. To the brethren of Kentucky especially, your Grand Lodge is indebted for kindness to, and cordial reception of, your Grand Master, in his recent visit.

Your Committee regret, however, that the duty entrusted to them involves matter of a less pleasing nature, and with much pain feel compelled to allude to the position adopted towards us by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, still in connection with the Grand Lodge of England. While they cannot but congratulate you on the truly masonic feeling which has characterized the management of the affairs of your Grand Lodge, and the tone of its correspondence in strictly adhering to the principles of attributing to those brethren remaining in connection with the Grand Lodge of England the same and equal credit for sincere and masonic motives, to that we claim for ourselves, and in every case avoiding the least approach to any expression of a personal nature, conceiving that the "good of the craft" is, or ought to be, the chief aim of every brother, it must therefore be a matter of regret that any brother of the Provincial Grand Lodge, while, personally, professing the approval of the motives by which we were actuated, admitting the necessity for the establishment of a Grand Lodge of Canada, and expressing the best wishes for success, and hesitating only as to the decisiveness with which we have acted, should have so far forgotten the principles of masonry as to asperse and malign our motives, and misrepresent our conduct and position in a circular issued to other Grand Lodges, without even having the candour to furnish us with a copy, and this too before their parent Grand Lodge and governing body had expressed any opinion on our proceedings. This conduct is the more reprehensible, as it is well known that we have the sympathy of a great majority of the Lodges and brethren still adhering to them, who await the decision of that Grand Lodge.

Your Committee regret that they cannot but concur in the remarks of the M.W. the Grand Master in the action of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York towards us, believing as they do, that interested influences, of which your Grand Lodge is doubtless aware, have been brought to bear to our prejudice. But they cannot pass over this part of their duty without alluding to the anomaly of a Grand Lodge whose internal state is such as to... are the remarks made by its Grand Master, in the same paragraph in which he denounces us, taking upon itself to condemn, as un-masonic, the action or motives of such of its sister Grand Lodges as have recognised us.

Your Committee, while regretting the action taken towards us by parties in office in the two bodies just alluded to, would still strongly recommend, that no alteration be allowed to appear in the tone of the correspondence of this Grand Lodge towards or respecting them, and that the privilege of our Lodges be freely extended to such of the brethren as may desire to use them, believing sincerely that in neither of these bodies is there any brother (except those few to whom it is now our painful duty to refer) who would not still be

willing to grasp the hand of each member of this Grand Lodge and hail him as a brother.

Your Committee, however, would recommend, that whilst this treatment be accorded and continued to the members of those Lodges already in existence, that this Grand Lodge being now regularly formed and duly recognized, and that too, by one of its parent Grand Lodges, and being, therefore, the supreme masonic authority in this Province, that no new Lodge be considered otherwise than as clandestine in Canada, unless it derive its authority from this Grand Lodge, and that due notification of such intention be furnished to all concerned.

Your Committee fully concur in the remarks of the Grand Master on the necessity for deciding on the system of working to be adopted throughout the Province, and as to the desirableness of including the mark degree in that of the fellow crafts, and beg to recommend to the Grand Lodge to appoint a Committee to consider these important subjects and report to the next Communication of Grand Lodge.

Your Committee with pleasure refer to the allusion made in the Grand Master's Address, to those masonic publications that are rapidly becoming so important, as a means of diffusing masonic knowledge among the brethren. To the *Masonic Review* of Cincinnati, your Grand Lodge is much indebted for the liberal and unprejudiced manner in which our position has been discussed in its columns. And your Committee consider the Grand Lodge and the brethren generally called on to lend their support in as great a degree as possible to that truly masonic and able journal, lately commenced in Montreal—the *Pioneer*.

In conclusion, your Committee would express the hope that another year may find us still on our onward progress, ever advancing, and exemplifying the benefits of masonry in a degree hitherto unknown in this Province.

The Grand Lodge was then called from labor to refreshment until 7 o'clock.

The Grand Lodge resumed its sitting at 7 o'clock.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Grand Master's Address was proceeded with when the following resolution was offered by RW. Bro. Daniells, seconded by W. Bro. Duncan, and unanimously carried:—That the Report of the Committee on the Grand Master's Address now read, be adopted, and the Officers of the Grand Lodge be requested to carry out the principles therein laid down.

The Grand Master appointed a Committee composed of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and all present and past District Deputy Grand Masters, to consider the form of working to be adopted by the Lodges of this Province, and also the question of attaching the mark degree to that of the fellow craft, and to report thereon to Grand Lodge at its next Communication.

The Report from the Grand Secretary on the business of the Grand Lodge since the last Communication was read and received, when it was moved by RW. Bro. Bernard, seconded by RW. Bro. Stephens, and resolved,—That the best thanks of the Grand Lodge are due and are hereby tendered to RW. Bro. Harris, for the zeal and assiduity displayed in conducting the business of his office from the formation of the Grand Lodge.

The Report of the Grand Treasurer for the same period, was then read and received, when it was moved by RW. Bro. Simpson, seconded by RW. Bro. Daniells, and resolved,—That the thanks of the Grand Lodge be offered to RW. Bro. Bellhouse for the care and attention he has bestowed upon the discharge of his duty as Grand Treasurer.

The Report of the Standing Committee on Correspondence was submitted, when it was moved by RW. Bro. Abbott, seconded by RW. Bro. Magill, and unanimously adopted,—That the Report as read be adopted.

RW. Bro. Bernard then moved, seconded by RW. Bro. Simpson,—That the Grand Master do nominate a brother as representative of this Grand Lodge, at the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ireland, which having been unanimously adopted, the M.W. the Grand Master was pleased to ap-

point RW. Bro. Furnell, Provincial G. M., to be such representative.

RW. Bro. Bernard moved, seconded by RW. Bro. Osborne,—That the Grand Master do nominate a brother as representative at the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Vermont, when the M.W. the Grand Master was pleased to appoint RW. Bro. J. B. Bowdish as such representative.

It was then moved by RW. Bro. Simpson seconded by RW. Bro. Daniells,—That the Grand Lodge appreciating the kind and valuable counsel and services at all times, of RW. Bro. Stephens, do present him with a masonic honorary jewel or other suitable mark of their esteem, which was unanimously carried. And the Grand Master appointed RW. Bros. Simpson, Daniells, Harris, Osborne, and Bro. Duggan a committee to carry out the wishes of the Grand Lodge.

RW. Bro. Osborne then moved, seconded by RW. Bro. Bethune,—That the best thanks of the Grand Lodge be tendered to The Most Worshipful the Grand Master, for his devotion and zeal in behalf of the Grand Lodge, which was unanimously adopted.

And on motion of RW. Bro. Magill seconded by RW. Bro. Harris,—The warmest thanks of the Grand Lodge were expressed to the RW. Deputy Grand Master Bro. Bernard, for his great and successful exertions in furtherance of the good of the craft.

The Grand Master appointed the various committees for conducting the business of the Grand Lodge, and the Grand Lodge was then closed in ample form with solemn prayer.

J. OSBORNE, Secy.

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All communications must be pre-paid, and addressed to the Editors *Masonic Pioneer* Montreal.



The *Canadian Masonic Pioneer*.

MONTREAL, AUGUST 1, 1856.

To the exclusion of several articles and communications already in type, we present our readers with full minutes of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Canada, at the Annual Communication in Hamilton, on the 9th, 10th and 11th days of July last, including the Address of the Grand Master, and the Report of the Committee to whom that Address was referred. We need scarcely invite attention to these proceedings.

We much regret that circumstances entirely unforeseen and over which we had no control have caused considerable delay in the publication of the present number of the *Pioneer*. We trust our subscribers will kindly pardon the delay, promising in future to see to it, that the *Pioneer* shall be "on time."

The following extract from an article in the last number of the *American Freemason*, "department of R. W. Bro. Finlay M. King," Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of New York, shows how little is known of the true state of masonic affairs in this Province, by even the most intelligent of those who undertake to write down the Grand Lodge of Canada.

"The claims of the now body of Masons in Canada, claiming to be an independent Grand Lodge, were elaborately discussed by the Committee on Foreign Correspondence in their report, who submitted a resolution that was adopted, asserting that: "The Grand Lodge of New York cannot, as at present advised, recognize the body of Masons in Canada claiming to be an independent Grand Lodge," which was adopted as the views of the Grand Lodge. There is much sympathy expressed in the report above referred to for the brethren in Canada, and a fervent hope entertained that the Grand Lodge of England will deal charitably towards them; but the Grand Lodge of New York is the last body to look to for countenance in a plain infraction of well-recognized Masonic law,—such as has been manifest in the action of our ill-advised brethren in the Canadian Provinces. It would appear from an official paper received by the Grand Lodge of New York from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, that the delegates who united in the attempted formation of an independent Grand Lodge were not all authorized by their Lodges to take the step which was taken by them. To copy from the paper itself, it appears, "that in a great many instances the delegates, who voted in favor of the movement, on returning to their Lodges, were not sustained in the action they had taken." It was not, however, upon this ground that the Grand Lodge of New York declined to receive the new body into fellowship; although that of itself might have been sufficient to have produced hesitation in so important a step. It was upon the broad ground that two independent Grand Lodges in Ancient Craft Masonry cannot co-exist in the same territory; nor can subordinate Lodges rebel against the authority of their superior, while the relations of that superior remain unchanged towards them."

"The Grand Lodge of New York is the last body to look to for countenance in a plain infraction of well-recognized masonic law,—such as has been manifest in the action of our ill-advised brethren in the Canadian Provinces."

High sounding words these; and a very serious charge. But where is their force and truth? What well recognized masonic law—written or unwritten, universal or particular, has been so manifestly violated by the Canadian brethren in forming a Grand Lodge? This is THE question, which it is manifestly unfair in brother King to beg. Let the proceedings of the Canadian masons be shown to be an infraction of well recognized masonic law; and they will be found ready, to a man, to retrace their steps and commence their work anew.

Nor is it true, that in "a great many instances, the delegates who voted in favor of the formation of a Grand Lodge, on returning to their Lodges, were not sustained in the action they

had taken." The instances are very few. And we believe in every case, the Lodges are merely awaiting the decisive action of the Grand Lodge of England before surrendering their warrants and affiliating with the Grand Lodge of Canada. "It was not, however, on this ground, that the Grand Lodge of New York, declined to receive the new body into fellowship." Of course not, for so long as the requisite number (three only) of Lodges were united, it was no legal ground of objection.

"It was upon the broad ground that two independent Grand Lodges, in ancient craft masonry, cannot co-exist in the same territory."

Did the Canadian masons ever say they could? Did they ever attempt to establish a second independent Grand Lodge in Canada? What independent Grand Lodge existed in Canada, previous to October 1855? Was it the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, of Montreal and William Henry, or of Quebec? They were the mere creatures of Provincial grand masters—the nominees of the grand master of England, holding office during his pleasure. Possessing none of the attributes of independent Grand Lodges, and sinking into abeyance, the moment the Provincial Grand Master might happen to die, resign, or be removed. Was it the Grand Lodge of England? She was a joint tenant with Ireland and Scotland, and nothing more. But "two," then certainly three, "independent Grand Lodges cannot co-exist in the same territory." Which of the three, then, was the Grand Lodge? England? What, then, has New York been about, that she did not long ago, refuse to fraternize with Irish and Scotch Canadian masons? The only Grand Lodge in Canada making any pretensions to independence is the one formed in October 1855. And the "broad ground" upon which New York declines to receive this body into fellowship, proves, after all, to be exceedingly narrow, so narrow, indeed, as to be just no ground at all.

"Nor can subordinate Lodges rebel against the authority of their superior, while the relations of that superior remain unchanged towards them."

This, no one denies. Nor did the Canadian Lodges in forming a Grand Lodge, any more rebel against the authority of the several Grand Lodges from which they originally derived their charters, than did the Lodges of New York, in 1787; of Connecticut, in 1789; of Vermont, in 1794; of Missouri, in 1812; of Kansas, in 1856; and of many others states and territories, at different periods, rebel against the authority of the Grand Lodges by which they were chartered, in forming their respective Grand Lodges. They exercised an inherent right, which has never, in any other case, been called in question. Dr. Mackey says, that "three or more Lodges in any territory where a Grand Lodge

does not already exist, may unite in convention and organize a Grand Lodge." This has always been considered sound masonic law, and acted upon as such, in the formation of at least one-half of the American Grand Lodges. Are we told that Canada must be precluded from the benefit of this law, because she forms an integral portion of the British Empire? So does Ireland,—so does Scotland. And yet who denies to them the right to have each a Grand Lodge? On what ground can an equal right be denied to Canada?

We had supposed that freemasonry was exempt from national and political trammels; and so she is. Neither England, Ireland, nor Scotland have pronounced their Canadian-brethren rebels, or violators of masonic law. It is only more interested parties, the petty Provincial authorities of Canada, and the Grand Lodge of New York, who have been found capable of this. And the motives and policy by which they are influenced are well understood. Ireland, just and generous Ireland, has pronounced a very different verdict. So has the bright and learned Tucker, and Vermont. So has the great author of the principles of masonic law, Dr. Mackey. So has Charles Moore of Circinnatti, and a host of other distinguished masonic authorities, as well as several Grand Lodges, whose motives of action were above suspicion.

A Temple.

We seldom take up any of our American exchanges without being gratified with the news that somewhere in the United States a new masonic Temple is being erected. That at Philadelphia is a superb structure erected at a cost which, when mentioned to Canadians, appears almost incredible. Our New York brethren too, are at work, and will soon hold their lodges in a building creditable both to their city and to the name in which we all rejoice.

The question which invariably arises in our mind when reading of these achievements, is—When shall we have a masonic Temple in Montreal? We have put it to many of our brethren, and although we find some who think we shall never have one, and others who throw the realization of the idea away forward to the futurity of "some day or other;" still there are, we think, a majority of Montreal masons of opinion, that were the matter taken in hand by a few energetic brethren a very short time would put the craft in the possession of a building, which might with propriety be called a Temple. One which would be at once a monument to the enterprise of Canadian masons and an architectural embellishment to our city.

We may be asked where are the means to come from? A lot of land of proper extent and situation would cost at least £800 or £900, and a building such as masons should own

could not be erected at a less cost than fifteen hundred pounds. To this we reply that £2500 or more could easily be raised by a joint stock company of masons. Surely, two hundred and fifty shares at £10 per share, could be disposed of. For our own part, having already broached the subject to many friends—all of whom have expressed a willingness to take stock—we are beyond doubt on the matter. Indeed, so sanguine do we feel of the success of the undertaking if once begun, that should no other person take it up we will devote as much of our leisure as we can spare to the work of soliciting our brethren to take shares. The interest of from one hundred to two hundred persons, once secured by the payment of a call of ten dollars per share, they would, for their own sakes, see to the completion of the work.

Freemason Female Orphan School.

A meeting of the governors of this institution was held in Freemason's Hall Dame Street, for the purpose of distributing the prizes which had been awarded to the children at the late examinations at the school.

The meeting was fully attended by the brethren, the governors of the school. A large number of ladies were also present.

His Grace the Duke of Leinster, the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of Ireland, entered the room at three o'clock, and was attended to the chair by the R. W. the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, Grand Chaplains, and the other Grand Officers.

The children of the school then entered the room, under care of the matron, and the Grand Master being saluted, proceedings were opened with prayer. The Hundredth Psalm was then sung in excellent style by the children. Br. White, grand organist, presiding at the organ.

The Deputy Grand Master addressed the meeting tracing the progress of the school from its foundation in 1796, to the present. Twenty-two children are supported and educated at the school, and the most favorable accounts have been received of those sent out into the world.

The children were then presented to the Most Noble the Grand Master, and received from his hands the prizes awarded to them. His Grace briefly addressed the meeting, and expressed his satisfaction at the progress of the school.

A hymn was then sung by the children, and his Grace having left the chair, the brethren and visitors retired to another room, where refreshments were provided, after which the meeting separated, highly pleased with the proceedings of the day.—*Dublin (Ireland) Advocate.*

The old fogysism, says M. W. Philip C. Tucker, which sees analogies where there are none, and shuts its eyes against those which actually exist, which would chain masonry by assumed and fictitious rules, or fetter it by its own imaginations, must and will wear away, or halt the usefulness of the order will be destroyed.



Yours fraternally
Wm. M. Wilson

Col. WILLIAM MERCER WILSON is an inhabitant of Simcoe, the county town of the county of Norfolk, in Canada West. He was born in Scotland, on the 21st August, 1813, and emigrated to Canada in April, 1832.

He was initiated at Simcoe, in St. John's Lodge, (now called Norfolk Lodge), on the 11th June, 1840. Passed and raised 9th July, 1840; elected Junior Warden in December, 1840, and by request of the Lodge, prepared and delivered an address at the public installation of the officers on St. John's day of that year, which was afterwards printed by order of the Lodge. He was first elected to the Chair in December, 1842, which he has filled, with brief intermissions, for ten years. Has been, from date of initiation, and is now, a contributing member of Norfolk Lodge.

On the 7th of August, 1845, Bro. Wilson laid the corner stone of the Presbyterian Church, in the Village of Victoria, with masonic honors, on which occasion he delivered an address, which was subsequently published in pamphlet form, with a dedication to Sir. A. N. McNab, the Prov. G. M., the whole edition of which was sold by and for the relief of a distressed Brother Mason, who, from disease, had lost his sight. The proceeds of the sale were considerable, and had also, it is believed, a beneficial effect in diffusing a more general knowledge of the value and beauty of Masonry throughout the Province.

In June, 1847, he received a Gold Medal, for which see *American Freemason*, Vol. 4. No. 1.

July 22d, 1847, he laid the corner stone of the county jail, assisted by the Brethren and authorities of the county.

After taking the preliminary degrees, he was exalted to the Sublime Degree of a R. A. M., in King Hiram Chapter, in the City of Hamilton, Canada West.

At the revival of the Prov. Grand Lodge, on 15th June, 1848, opened under patent issued by the G. L. of England to the R. W. Bro. Sir Allan Napier McNab, Bro. Wilson was appointed G. Pursuivant; and at laying the foundation stone of the Town Hall at St. Catherine's, on the 29th October, 1848, by special appointment, he officiated as Grand Orator—(This was probably the most magnificent and numerous attended masonic display that ever took place in Canada.) The address was published, *in extenso*, by the papers of the day, and subsequently printed, by order of the P. G. Lodge, in pamphlet form, together with a dedication by the author to R. W. Bro. Thos. G. Ridout, Esq., D. P. G. M. Since that time he has attended many meetings of the P. G. L., and ge-

nerally taken an active part in the proceedings, frequently filling the chair, and in the West when G. S. W. was absent.

He visited England, in 1851, as a delegate from the Provincial Agricultural Society of Canada to the great exhibition. There he availed himself of the opportunity of searching in the archives of the Grand Lodge of England for information as to the antiquity, &c., of the Lodge of which he was then Master. The intelligence thus obtained was gladly received and gratefully acknowledged by the Brethren.

When in Europe, he visited many Lodges in England and France, and returned to Canada with, if possible, a deeper veneration and higher appreciation of the value of Masonry than ever before.

A series of letters, addressed to his friends in Canada, containing extracts from his notes of travel, his visits to the Crystal Palace, Paris, &c., were published, and attracted some attention. On his return, he was honored by a public reception, when his numerous friends, with music, &c., welcomed him home again.

On the 11th October, 1855, he was elected by the Representatives of forty-one Lodges to fill the distinguished position of first G. M. of the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada.

Bro. Wilson has always taken a lively interest in educational and agricultural matters, being for many years a director of the County of Norfolk Agricultural Society, and has filled the office of President of that Society. He is now a member of the County Board of Education, President of the Simcoe Board of School Trustees, and has for several years been President of Simcoe Mechanics' Institute.

He purchased and brought into the county its first printing press, and for a year and a half edited the *Norfolk Observer*. There are now five papers published in the county, four of which are printed in Simcoe.

He commanded a troop of cavalry during the excitement which broke out in Canada in 1837, and was kept on active service for nearly three years. In acknowledgment of which, received from Provincial Government the appointments of Clerk of the Peace and Clerk of the County Court, both of which offices he still holds. Has since risen to the rank of Lieut. Colonel in the Militia of the Province.

He is a member also of the Canadian Bar. In politics, moderate, conservative,—rather popular, but has always declined being a candidate for parliamentary honors.

The masonic character of Bro. Wilson being

thus so well founded, our choice of his "Face" to fill this niche would have commended itself to all our readers, even though the universal interest manifested in the movement, of which he is the head, had not called special attention to his name. No subject is before the fraternity of this year of half the importance of this. No question has arisen in this age in which more serious principles are involved than the enquiry, can a Grand Lodge perpetually and dictatorially control its subordinate in other provinces when they become sufficiently numerous and respectable to govern themselves.

The first Annual Meeting of "the Grand Lodge of ancient free and accepted Masons of Canada," was held at the city of Hamilton, the 9th July last, and two following days. The attendance from the subordinate lodges was very large, considerably over one hundred ballots having been thrown for officers. The entire extent of territory from Stanstead eastward, to Amherstburgh westward, was represented, many of the brethren travelled a distance of more than 600 miles to be present. How different this from the former state of things. We have known Provincial Grand Lodges under the old regime unable to proceed to business for want of a *quorum*, until the whipper in of the P. G. M. had hunted up and induced to be present one or more office holders, who, up to that moment, probably never so much as know he or they were "worshipful brethren." We congratulate the craft upon this change for the better, a healthy state of things now exists. We have "the right men in the right places," and freemasonry in Canada is consequently receiving an impetus it never before experienced.

Much very important business was transacted at Hamilton. Warrants for nine new lodges were granted, the constitution adopted in October last and which from the hurried manner in which it was concocted was necessarily imperfect, was carefully and thoroughly revised, and we believe the Canadian masons now possess as good a written Constitution as can any where be produced. The elective and ballot principles have been generally adopted, favoritism and the system of appointment to office for life of unfit persons, has been totally abolished; in fact all the grievances under which we have heretofore suffered, and which have hitherto been but an incubus on masonry here, have been swept away. Most of our readers will be glad to learn that amongst other improvements, it is now permitted to lodges to be represented at future meetings of the Grand Lodge by proxy. No brother below the rank of legal representative being eligible to serve as proxy or to represent more than three lodges, each lodge being entitled to three votes. There are many other important changes effected in our Constitution which we cannot now enumerate, nor, indeed, is it necessary to do so as each lodge will, in the course of a few days be put in possession of a sufficient number of printed copies of the amended Constitution to supply its members.

We entreat our brothers to carefully read and inwardly digest it so that every brother hailing from the Grand Lodge of Canada, may be a bright mason and well instructed in the duties, he owes not alone to his own lodge, but to the craft in general.

What have they done with the money.
(To the Editor of the MASONIC PIONEER.)

Dear Sir and Brother,—I am not a very "old mason" but have been a member of the craft long enough to learn "a thing or two," one thing, however, I have not been able to learn, and that is, what has been done with the money which was paid by the Lodges in the District of Montreal and William Henry, during a long series of years, into the treasury of the Provincial Grand Lodge. Before you Canada Grand Lodge folks left my Lodge almost alone, there were nearly a dozen Lodges in the District, whose aggregate annual payments, must have amounted to a considerable sum. The money was not spent in building a Masonic Hall. Nor in founding an Asylum or School. Nor does it seem to have been spent in festivals, or in relieving the poor. The question is often asked, what has been done with it? and I am sure many of your readers will be gratified, if you can enlighten them on this subject.

I have the honor to be,
Sir and brother,

A MEMBER OF ST. PAUL'S LODGE.

Montreal, 26th July, 1856.

[We are totally unable to give our correspondent the information he asks. One thing we know, that no account of receipts and disbursements was ever furnished to the private Lodges in the district. And, during the time we had the honor of being a member of the Provincial Grand Lodge, it was utterly impossible to get a statement of its affairs or to obtain any light whatever on the subject. We would refer our correspondent to some of the members of his own Lodge. Among them he will find the Provincial Grand Master and his Deputy, the Secretary, Registrar and Treasurer, and if he fails in getting from them the information he requires, he will only share the fate which others have experienced before him. If he does obtain it, he will be kind enough to "let us know."

Ed. M. P.]

There are in the district of Montreal and William Henry, two Lodges still under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, viz:—"St. Pauls," and "Dorchester." A majority of the members of the latter, however, are in favor of affiliation with the Grand Lodge of Canada. While there are under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in the same district, twelve Lodges, viz:—"St. George's," "Zetland," "Social and Military Virtues," "Jacques Cartier," "St. Andrews," "Nelson," "Hoyle," "Prevost," "Shefford," "Golden Rule," "St. Francis" and "Victoria."

The Union Lodge, Grimsby.

The members of this ancient lodge met together on the festival of St. John the Baptist, in their new and elegant Hall, at 2 o'clock.

After the installation of the W. M. elect and the appointment and investiture of the other officers, a procession was formed and the brethren walked to St. Andrews Church, Grimsby, where prayers were said and a sermon preached by R. W. Bro. the Rev. Dr. Lundy, Rector of the parish, P. M. of the lodge and Past Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Canada. The brethren dined together in the evening and separated at an early hour, having passed a most harmonious day.

This meeting was rendered more than usually interesting by the presence of two aged and worthy freemasons, brothers William Lawrence and Alexander Millmine, the former of whom was initiated in Union Lodge, in the year 1803, and the latter was its W. M. in 1825 and 1828.

The officers for the current year are:—
W. bro. John Wesley Lewis, W. M.,
R. W. bro. the Rev. Dr. Lundy, P. M.
Brother John S. Walker, S. W.

" Andrew Randall, J. W.
" James M. Fairwell, Treasurer.
" John T. Parker, Secretary.
" George Vandyke, S. D.
" Ira S. Bush, J. D.
" Robert Byrans, J. G.
" George Masson, D. C.
" William Jeffery, }
" David McCarty, } Stewards.
" John Collaton, Tyler.

The first warrant of the Union Lodge is dated 20th November, 1799, and its minutes have been carefully preserved from that period to the festival of St. John the Baptist, 1827. The lodge was then dormant for 27 years and revived on 4th May 1854, since which period the numbers of its members has increased sixfold.

The Masonic Hall at Nashville, Tennessee, was destroyed by fire on the 9th of July. Loss \$10,000. Insured for \$5,000.

The next Annual Meeting of the Grand Lodge of Canada, will be held in Montreal, on the 2nd Wednesday in July, 1857.

GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF N. Y.—At the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the most ancient and honorable fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, held at the Grand Lodge Room, in the city of New York, on the 5th day of June, A. L., 5856, the following Brethren were duly elected Grand Officers for the ensuing year and subsequently installed and proclaimed as such, viz: The M. W. John L. Lewis, jr, Grand Master; the Rt. W. R. Macoy, D. G. Master; the Rt. W. F. M. King, Senior G. Warden; the Rt. W. James Hydey, Junior G. Warden; the Rt. W. Charles L. Church, Grand Treasurer; the Rt. W. James St. Austin; Grand Secretary.

List of Montreal City Lodges.

NAME OF LODGE.	REGISTER AND NO.	NAME OF W. M.	DATE OF MEETING.
St. George's.....	R. C.	W. Bro. P. D. Brown.	Third Tuesday of each Month.
Zeland.....	R. C.	V. W. Bro. J. H. Isaacson.	Second Thursday do.
Lodge of S. and M. Virtues.....	R. C.	W. Bro. J. Morris.	First do.
Jacques Cartier.....	R. C.	W. Bro. J. W. Haldimand.	Third do.
Elgin.....	R. S.	W. Bro. Jas. Boyd.	First Monday do.
St. Paul's.....	R. E.	V. W. Bro. A. H. Campbell.	Second Tuesday do.

CANADA STAINED GLASS WORKS,
21 Notre Dame Street,
(NEAR DONEGAN'S HOTEL.)
MONTREAL.

J. C. SPENCE,
MANUFACTURER of Stained, Painted, Embossed and Figured Enamel Glass for the windows of Churches, Public Buildings, Steamboats, Hotels, Staircases, Halls, Side and Panel Lights, &c., &c.
Gilding and writing on Glass, Figures, Coats of Arms, Monograms, and every description of Ecclesiastic, Heraldic and Domestic Stained Glass.
Designs and Estimates furnished on application. Specimens may be seen at the Office.
June, 1856.

PAUL MONDOU,
Passenger Agent, Vermont Central R.R.,
No. 65, Commissioners Street,
MONTREAL, C.E.
June, 1856.

R. J. FOWLER,
PROFESSOR OF MUSIC,
9 St. DOMINIQUE STREET,
MONTREAL.
June, 1856.

ON DRAUGHT,
SALT & Co.'s EAST INDIA PALE ALE,
From Burton on Trent. Also, Guinness & Sons
DOUBLE EXTRA STOUT.

SHAKSPEARE INN,
St. Francois Xavier Street,
GEORGE LULHAM.
June, 1856.

ALFRED BARTON,
Commission Merchant & General Agent,
BOWMANVILLE, C.W.
June, 1856.

THE OTTAWA HOTEL,
GREAT ST. JAMES STREET,
MONTREAL,
CONDUCTED IN THE AMERICAN STYLE.
THE OTTAWA HOTEL stands in the very heart of the business part of the City, being in the same street and within two minutes walk of the Post Office and Banks.
The **PARLORS** and **BEDROOMS** are light, airy and well ventilated; the **TABLE** is always supplied with the best to be found in the Markets; and the **WINES, LIQUORS** and **CIGARS** are invariably of the choicest brands.
CARRIAGES will be in attendance at the Railroad and Steamboat Depots, on the arrival of Cars and Boats.

A. HOFFNUNG,
170 NOTRE DAME STREET, 170
MONTREAL,
Facing St. Lawrence Main Street,
Importer of Geneva Watches, Fine Gold Jewellery of every description, Electro Silver Spoons, Forks, Cruets, Cake Baskets, &c., Papier Maché Ware, Clocks, Musical Instruments and Fancy Goods, the whole of which will be offered at prices that defy competition.
MASONIC JEWELLERY manufactured to order.
June, 1856.

JOHN MARTIN,
Wholesale Furrier and Importer,
291 St. PAUL STREET, (WEST),
MONTREAL.
June, 1856.

STERNBERG & HIMES,
MERCHANT TAILORS,
144 Notre Dame Street, Montreal,
Wholesale and Retail Clothiers, and Manufacturers of Hats, Caps and Furs. Masonic Clothing, Jewels, Working Tools, &c., &c.
June, 1856.

JOHN HELDER ISAACSON,
NOTARY PUBLIC,
No. 21 St. FRANCOIS XAVIER STREET,
MONTREAL.
June, 1856.

M. MORRISON,
ADVOCATE,
53 St. Francois Xavier Street, Montreal.
July 1, 1866.

COLLEGIATE SCHOOL,
CHARLES NICHOLS,—PRINCIPAL,
12 Great St. James Street,
MONTREAL.
School Re-opens on Wednesday 23rd July.
June, 1856.

DR. BERNARD,
SURGEON,
Mechanical Dentist and Manufacturer of Artificial Teeth,
133 CRAIG STREET, MONTREAL,
Agent for the New York Teeth Manufacturing Company.
June, 1856.

C. BRYSON,
ACCOUNT BOOK Manufacturer, General Bookbinder, Paper Ruler and Stationer, Wholesale and Retail, No. 30 St. Francois Xavier Street, Montreal.
Sells for cash only at unusually low rates, and makes no Second Price.
June, 1856.

FRANCHERE, TOURVILLE & Co.,
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
AND
FLOUR, GRAIN AND PORK DEALERS,
No. 8, Common St., Gillespie's Buildings.
All orders and consignments made to them will meet prompt attention and quick returns.
June, 1856.

COLEMAN'S
MONTREAL HOUSE,
CUSTOM-HOUSE SQUARE,
MONTREAL,
J. W. COLEMAN.
June, 1856.

British Commercial Life Assurance Co.
OF LONDON,
(Established 1820, empowered by Act of Parliament)
CAPITAL AND ASSETS £1,000,000 STG.
Prospectuses and all information can be had at the Offices of the Company, No. 12 Great St. James Street, Montreal.
PHILLIPS, GRAVELEY, DUFRESNE & Co.,
Agents.
July 1, 1856.

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OF CANADA,
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Established in 1853 for the Assurance of Life and Health.
CAPITAL, £100,000.

Head Office, 12 Great St. James Street, Montreal, With other Branch Offices through British North America.
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JAS. H. PHILLIPS, President.
DAVID HUNTER, Secy.
July 1, 1856.

PHILLIPS, GRAVELEY, DUFRESNE & Co.,
Life, Fire, and Marine Insurance Agents and Brokers,
OFFICES:—No. 12 Great St. James Street, Montreal; No. 16 St. Louis Street, U. T., Quebec.
July 1, 1856.

THOMAS BRODIE,
EASTERN HOUSE,
BOWMANVILLE.
July 1, 1856.

A. WILSON,
CONFECTIONER,
Corner of Notre Dame and St. Peter Streets.
MONTREAL.
July 1, 1856.

AGENTS FOR THE CANADIAN MASONIC PIONEER.
Thos. Camm,.....Brookville, C.W.
W. C. Morrison,....Toronto, C.W.
H. Grist,.....Hamilton, C.W.
— Abbot,.....London, C.W.
A. Barton,.....Bowmanville, C.W.
Geo. Duncan,.....Windsor, C.W.
G. H. Napier,.....Melbourne, C.E.
J. J. Boyd,.....Sherbrooke, C.E.
W. A. Osgood,.....St. John's, C.E.
E. Gusten,.....Stanstead, C.E.
R. Douglass,.....Lacolle, C.E.
G. W. Johnston.....Clarenceville, C.E.

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