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CEREMONY

TO BE USED

AT THE LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE
OF THE

High School Building,

HALIFAX, N. S., JULY 17, 1878.

The Grand Lodge officers having taken their places, and the members of the Fraternity having formed a hollow square, the Chairman of the Board of School Commissioners addresses the Grand Master as follows :

MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER :—According to ancient custom I have to request that you will kindly lay the Foundation Stone of this High School Building with Masonic Ceremonies.

By order of the Grand Master, the Grand Director of Ceremonies proclaims

SILENCE! SILENCE!! SILENCE!!!

MUSIC—"OLD HUNDRED," sung by all present and accompanied by the band.

PSALM C.

With one consent let all the earth
To God their cheerful voices raise ;
Glad homage pay with awful mirth,
And sing before him songs of praise.

Convinced that He is God alone,
From whom both we and all proceed ;
We whom He chooses for His own,
The flock that He vouchsafes to feed.

O enter then His temple gate,
Thence to His courts devoutly press,
And still your grateful hymns repeat,
And still His Name with praises bless.

For He's the Lord, supremely good,
His mercy is forever sure ;
His truth, which always firmly stood,
To endless ages shall endure.

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The Deputy Grand Master then addresses the M. W. Grand Master as follows :

M. W. GRAND MASTER.—The School Commissioners of the City of Halifax having decided to erect on this site a Building for the promotion of education in the higher branches of knowledge ; and the Commissioners having requested you to lay the Corner Stone, it becomes my duty to inform you that the necessary arrangements are completed, and that the Brethren are now assembled for the purpose of witnessing the impressive ceremonies. I have much pleasure therefore in presenting to you the Contractor for the Work, under whose Superintendence the Stone has been prepared.

The Contractor then says :

MOST W. G. MASTER.—The Building Committee having awarded me the Contract for the erection of this new edifice, and having assigned to me the duty of preparing the Corner Stone, and making arrangements for its being laid, I have much pleasure in reporting that labor completed. It is now ready, M. W. Sir, to be made the foundation Stone of this New Building.

The Grand Master says :

Men and Brethren here assembled to behold this ceremony, be it known unto you, that we be lawful Masons, true and faithful to the laws of our country, and engaged by solemn obligations to erect substantial buildings, to be serviceable to the community, and to fear God, the Great Architect of the Universe.

We have among us, concealed from the eyes of all men, secrets which may not be revealed, and which no man has discovered ; but these secrets are lawful and honorable, and not repugnant to the laws of God or Man.

They were intrusted, in peace and honor, to the Masons of ancient times, and having been faithfully transmitted to us, it is our duty to convey them unimpaired to the latest posterity. Unless our craft were good and our calling honorable, we should not have lasted for so many centuries, nor should we have so many illustrious Brothers in our Order, ready to promote our laws and further our interests. We are here assembled to-day in the presence of you all, to build a house, which we pray God may prosper, if it seem good to Him, that it may become a building for good men and good deeds, and promote harmony and brotherly love throughout the world till time shall be no more. As the first duty of Masons in any undertaking is to invoke the blessing of the Great Architect upon their work, we will unite with our Grand Chaplain in an Address to the Throne of Grace, after he shall have read a lesson from the Holy Scriptures.

The R. W. Grand Chaplain reads the following :—

LESSON.

“ Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth ? Declare, if thou hast understanding.

“ Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest ? or who hath stretched the line upon it ?

“ Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened ? or who laid the Corner Stone thereof ?

“ When the morning stars sang together, and all the Scns of God shouted for joy. Job xxxviii. 4-7.”

“ That our daughters may be as Corner Stones, polished after the similitude of a palace.”—Ps. cxliv. 12.

“ Therefore, thus saith the Lord God—Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation Stone, a tried Stone, a precious Corner Stone, a sure foundation : he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet.”—Isa. xxviii. 16-17.

“ What is this, then, that is written, the Stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner.”—Luke xx. 17.

The R. W. Grand Chaplain offers the following Prayer :

Almighty God, Supreme Architect and Ruler of the Universe, we would come reverently into Thy presence and devoutly implore Thy blessing upon the services of this hour, and upon the undertaking in which our Brethren of this Jurisdiction are now engaged. While we thank Thee for the prosperity which has attended them in the past, we ask that Thy continued favor may be upon them in the future.

Bless those who direct and the workmen who shall construct this edifice, that when completed it may fully illustrate the wisdom, strength and beauty of the Spiritual Temple not made with hands.

Within its walls may the divine principle, "on earth peace, good will toward men," be ever inculcated and enjoyed; may all the proper work that may be done in it, be such as Thy wisdom may approve and Thy goodness prosper.

And finally, graciously be pleased, O! thou Sovereign Architect of the Universe, to bless the Craft, wheresoever dispersed, and make them true and faithful to Thee, their neighbour and to themselves; and when the time of our labor is drawing near to an end, and the pillar of our strength is declining to the ground, graciously enable us to pass through the "valley of the shadow of death," supported by Thy rod and Thy staff, to those mansions beyond the skies, where love and peace and joy forever reign before Thy throne.

The Brethren repeating with the Grand Chaplain: "Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy Will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The R. W. Grand Chaplain, then gives out the following hymn, which is sung to the music of "Duke Street," and accompanied by the band.

HYMN.

O Lord of Hosts, whose glory fills
The bounds of the eternal hills,
And yet vouchsafes in christian lands,
To dwell in temples made with hands.

Grant that all we, who here to-day
Rejoicing this foundation lay,
May be in very deed Thine own,
Built on the precious Corner Stone.

The heads that guide endue with skill,
The hands that work preserve from ill,
That we who these foundations lay,
May raise the topstone in its day.

The Grand Master then addresses the Grand Secretary :

BRO. GRAND SECRETARY,—You will now read the Scroll and list of articles to be deposited in the Foundation Stone.

The Grand Secretary :

Within the Glass Vessel which is to be placed under this Corner Stone are contained the following:

THE SCROLL.

IN THE NAME OF THE

GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE,

On this 17th day of July, A. D. 1878, A. L. 5878,

And in the Forty-second year of the Reign of our Most Gracious Sovereign

VICTORIA,

By the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the Colonies, and Dependencies thereof in Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Australasia, QUEEN, Defender of the Faith, Empress of India.

The Right Honorable SIR FREDERICK TEMPLE, Earl of Dufferin,
K. P., K. C. B.; &c., &c.,

Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada.

The Honorable ALEXANDER MCKENZIE,

Premier of the Dominion of Canada, and Minister of Public Works,

MATTHEW H. RICHEY, Esq., Mayor of the City of Halifax.

Board of School Commissioners for the City of Halifax, 1877-78.

Chairman,

JOHN S. D. THOMPSON, Esq.

Vice-Chairman,

J. J. BREMNER, Esq.

DANIEL CRONAN, Esq.,
AUGUSTUS W. WEST, Esq.,
HON. LAWRENCE G. POWER,
JOSEPH S. BELCHER, Esq.,
S. M. BROOKFIELD, Esq.,

W. D. HARRINGTON, Esq.,
ALDERMAN A. FORSYTH,
ALDERMAN M. J. POWER,
ALDERMAN WM. NISBET,
WILLIAM ACKHURST, Esq.

THIS STONE,

THE CORNER STONE OF THE HALIFAX HIGH SCHOOL,

Now being erected by the School Commissioners of Halifax, was laid in accordance with the ancient usages of the Order by

COLONEL J. WIMBURN LAURIE,

M. V. Grand Master of A. F. & A. Masons of Nova Scotia,

Assisted by the Officers of Grand Lodge and the Officers and Members of Subordinate Lodges, and in the presence of the Board of School Commissioners and a large and influential concourse of citizens.

ARCHITECT HENRY F. BUSCH.
CONTRACTOR..... ROBERT BRUNTON.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

LIST OF ARTICLES

Deposited in the corner stone of the Halifax High School Building,

July 17, 1878, A.L. 5878.

A copy of the Holy Bible.

The Inscription or Scroll.

Silver coins of the Dominion of Canada, 5c., 10c., 20c., 25c., 50c. pieces;
one cent copper coin of the Dominion of Canada; Nova Scotia penny tokens,

1843 and 1856; half-penny tokens, 1840 and 1856; Nova Scotia half-cent, 1861; New Brunswick penny and half-penny tokens, 1843; English two-penny piece of 1797, found on the site in excavating; Prince Edward Island half-penny, 1857; Canada half-penny, 1830; Upper Canada Bank penny token, 1850; copies of newspapers published in the City of Halifax: Royal Gazette, Wesleyan, Presbyterian Witness, Christian Messenger, Alliance Journal, Morning Chronicle, Herald, Reporter and Daily Times, Evening Chronicle and Citizen, Recorder, and Mayflower; Belcher's Farmers' Almanac, 1878; Calendar of King's College, Windsor, N.S., 1877 and 1878, Calendar and Catalogue of Acadia College, Wolfville, for 1877 and 1878; Circular and Catalogue of Mount Allison Wesleyan College and Academies, 1877; Calendar of Dalhousie College and University, 1878; Halifax Medical College announcement, 1878-79; Calendar of the University of Halifax, 1878; Report of Board of School Commissioners for the City of Halifax, 1877; Annual Report of Young Men's Christian Association; Educational Report for the Province of Nova Scotia, 1877; Proceedings of the M. W. Grand Lodge of A., F. and A. Masons of Nova Scotia, 1877; Ceremony used at the laying of the Corner Stone of the New Provincial Normal School Building, Truro, July, 7 1877; copy of Halifax Public School Testimonial; signatures of the teachers and scholars of the Halifax Public Schools.

Grand Master :

I now direct you Brother Grand Treasurer to deposit the Glass Vessel containing these articles in the place prepared for its reception.

The Grand Treasurer then deposits the glass vessel containing the various articles, and securely enclosed in a tin case, in the cavity of the stone, the band playing "Auld Lang Syne."

The Grand Master, addressing the Deputy Grand Master, says :

R. W. DEPUTY G. MASTER,—It is my will and pleasure, that the Corner Stone of the New Building be now laid. You will announce the same to the R. W. Senior Grand Warden, that he may announce it to the R. W. Junior Grand Warden, with directions then to proclaim the same to the Brethren, that all present may govern themselves accordingly.

The Deputy Grand Master says :

R. W. SENIOR GRAND WARDEN,—It is the M. W. Grand Master's will and pleasure that the Corner Stone of the New Building be now laid. You will announce the same to the R. W. Junior Grand Warden, with directions then to proclaim the same to the Brethren, that all present may govern themselves accordingly.

The Junior Grand Warden says :

BRETHREN, take notice, it is the M. W. Grand Master's will and pleasure that the Corner Stone of the New Building be now laid on this site; you will therefore govern yourselves accordingly.

The Grand Master says :

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER,—You will see that the Craftsmen have well and truly prepared the Corner Stone to be laid by me.

The Deputy Grand Master says :

R. W. JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN,—You will now see that the Craftsmen have prepared the Stone and that it is true and trusty. Test it with the plumb, and report to me if you are satisfied with the work of the Craftsmen.

The Junior Grand Warden then proceeds to the stone, tests it and reports :

R. W. DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, I find the stone plumb, and the Craftsmen have prepared the Corner Stone true and trusty.

The Deputy Grand Master says :

R. W. SENIOR GRAND WARDEN,—You will now examine and satisfy yourself that the Craftsmen have worked well. Try the stone with the level and report to me the result of your examination.

The Senior Grand Warden then proceeds to the stone, tries it with the level, and reports :

R. W. DEPUTY GRAND MASTER,—I find the Corner Stone level, and that the Craftsmen have worked well.

The Deputy Grand Master then proceeds to the stone, and tests it with the square, and returning to his station, reports :

M. W. GRAND MASTER,—I find the Corner Stone of this High School Building, tried, true, trusty, plumb, level and square, and that the Grand Officers have approved of the work, and have found it well and truly prepared, and that the Craftsmen have worked well.

The Grand Master then addresses the Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden :

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL BROTHERS,—You will proceed to the stone while the laborers and bearers are laying it in its proper position, you will try it with the plumb, level, and square, and report to us if it is well and duly prepared.

The Deputy Grand Master, after returning from the stone, says :

M. W. G. MASTER,—The corner stone is placed due east and west, and is now ready to be laid.

Past Dep. Grand Master R. W. Bro. Allen H. Crowe then presents the Chairman of the Commissioners appointed to arrange for the erection of the Building, who says :

M. W. GRAND MASTER,—On behalf of the Board of School Commissioners for the City of Halifax, I have very great pleasure in presenting you with this trowel to assist in completing the work so auspiciously begun.

The trowel is a very handsome and massive one of solid silver, manufactured by Bro. Julius Cornelius, of Halifax, N. S., and bears the following inscription :

PRESENTED

BY THE

BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF HALIFAX

TO

COLONEL J. WIMBURN LAURIE,

M. W. GRAND MASTER OF A., F. AND A. MASONS OF NOVA SCOTIA,

On the occasion of the

LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

HALIFAX, N. S., JULY 17, 1878.

The Senior and Junior Deacons then proceed to the stone with the trowel and gavel.

The Grand Master, preceded by the Grand Director of Ceremonies and Grand Sword Bearer, and accompanied by the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, proceeds to the stone. The Grand Master at the East, the Deputy on his right, Senior Warden at the West, Junior Warden at the South.

The Grand Master takes the trowel from the Junior Grand Deacon, and spreads the cement.

The covering stone is then lowered into its place with three gradual motions. At each halt the band plays a part of the National Anthem, and the brethren give the public Grand Honors.

The Grand Master then takes the gavel from the Senior Grand Deacon, strikes the stone three times and says :

Well made—well proved—truly laid—true and trusty ; and may this undertaking be conducted and completed by the Craftsmen according to the Grand Plan, in Peace, Harmony and Brotherly Love.

The Grand Master and Officers return to their stations. The Grand Master announces :

I, John Wimburn Laurie, Grand Master of Masons of Nova Scotia, declare this Corner-Stone to be Plumb, Level and Square, and so duly laid according to the Ancient usages, customs, and Landmarks of Free Masonry ; and may the Great Architect of the Universe bless the work here begun, and make it memorable to the latest generation.

The Grand Stewards then proceed to the Stone with Corn, Wine and Oil.

The Grand Officers then proceed to the Stone. The R. W. Dep. Grand Master presents the cornucopia to the Grand Master, who drops the corn on the stone, and says :

May plenty be showered down upon the people of this Town, Province and Empire, and may the labors of the Craft be refreshed by the Great Giver of every good and perfect gift.

The R. W. Senior G. Warden then presents the Wine to the Grand Master, who pours it on the stone, and says :

May the health of the craftsmen employed in erecting this Building be preserved to them, and may the Supreme Architect bless and prosper their labors.

The R. W. Junior G. Warden then presents the Oil to the Grand Master, who pours it on the Stone, and says :

May the Supreme Ruler of the World vouchsafe unity, peace and prosperity to the people of Nova Scotia, and to the nations of the earth ; preserve and protect the fraternity of Freemasons ; make the virtues of the Craft a lesson to the world, and the labors of the Craftsmen easy and their burdens light.

May Corn, Wine and Oil, and all the necessaries of life abound among men throughout the world ; may the Blessing of Almighty God be upon this

undertaking, and may the structure here to be erected stand in wisdom, strength and beauty, a lasting monument of the zeal, enterprise and liberality of its founders.

(Band.)

The Past Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Rev. R. Avery, then presents the Architect, saying :

M. W. GRAND MASTER.—Allow me to present to you the Architect of this New Building. He has his craftsmen ready for the work, and desires you to give him the designs from the trestle board, and the tools of the workmen.

The Grand Master then hands him the plans and tools, square, level and plumb, and says :

To you Bro. Architect are confided the implements of operative Masonry with the fullest confidence that by your skill and taste a fabric will here arise which shall add new lustre to the city of Halifax, and be a credit to our community. May it be blessed with wisdom in the plan, strength in the execution, and beauty in the adornment ; and may the sun of Righteousness enlighten the craftsmen who build, the Commissioners who superintend, and the community for whose benefit this structure shall arise.

(Music by the Band.)

The following Proclamation is then made in the East by the First Herald :

BRETHREN,—In the name of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, of Nova Scotia, I now proclaim that the Corner Stone of the structure to be here erected, has this day and in this place been laid by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, J. Wimburn Laurie, according to the Ancient Customs of the Craft

This Proclamation is then made from the West by the Second Herald, and from the South by the Third Herald. Once (trumpet.) Twice (trumpet twice). Thrice (trumpet thrice).

Address by M. H. Richey, Esq., Mayor of Halifax.

DOXOLOGY.

Benediction.