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# THE CRAFTSMAN

## AND BRITISH AMERICAN MASONIC RECORD.

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NO. 8.

### HISTORY OF MASONRY IN CANADA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRAFTSMAN.

The following notes relating to the history of Free Masonry in Upper Canada were put together for the information of St. John's Lodge, No. 3, Kingston. I send them to you in the hope that their publication may lead every Brother in the province to feel that it is his duty to add to the material already collected, by hunting up and preserving every document that may tend to throw light on the subject.

S. D. F.  
P. G. Sen. Warden.

The Grand Lodge of Canada fully alive to the importance of compiling a history of the Craft in this province, appointed a committee, several years since, to collect materials for that purpose. Some considerable progress has been made by this Committee, they have in their possession a number of Masonic documents collected from various quarters, and have examined others which they were obliged to return to the lodges to whom they belonged. I am convinced there are still many valuable records extant, hid away, and perhaps forgotten in old lumber chests, both in lodges, and in the possession of old Masons or their descendants, which further enquiry may bring to light, and it is to be hoped that ere long a competent historiographer will, with more materials at command, be able to compile a complete Masonic history of Canada.

I have thought it would be interesting to the members of one of the oldest Lodges in Canada, and the only Lodge, so far as I know, that has been able to produce its records unbroken and un mutilated from its formation in 1794 to the present day, to know a little more than they do of the history of the Craft in Canada, and have therefore culled a few extracts from Lodge Minute Books, and other old Masonic documents (which as a member of the Committee of Grand Lodge, referred to above have come under my notice), accompanied by explanatory remarks.

In tracing the early history of Masonry in this country, it must be remembered that during the greater part of last century there existed in England Two Grand Lodges, each claiming and exercising jurisdiction in the Colonies, and even in foreign countries, whose conflicting claims were put an end to in 1813, by "their incorporation and consolidation into one United Grand Lodge."

Almost all the old Lodges of Upper Canada, or at least those, any of whose records are still extant, derived their origin from what is commonly called the Athol Grand Lodge, and none of these date

further back than 1794, but that there were at one time Lodges hailing from the other section of the English Craft is evident from the following list taken from a Masonic "Vade Mecum" published in London in 1797, and now in my possession. :-

- |          |                                 |                    |
|----------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| No. 151, | Merchants Lodge,                | Quebec.            |
| " 152,   | St. Andrew's                    | do.                |
| " 153,   | St. Patrick's                   | do.                |
| " 155,   | Select                          | do.                |
| " 154,   | St. Peter's                     | Montreal.          |
| " 414,   | St. Paul's                      | do.                |
| " 428,   | Select                          | do.                |
| " 522,   | St. John's Lodge of Friendship, | Montreal.          |
| " 239,   | Lodge at                        | Detroit.           |
| " 320,   | Union Lodge,                    | do.                |
| " 376,   | St. John's Lodge,               | Michilimacinac.    |
| " 426,   | Lodge of Unity,                 | Fort Henry.        |
| " 427,   | St. James Lodge,                | Cataraqui.         |
| " 429,   | New Oswegatchie Lodge.          |                    |
| " 430,   | St. John's Lodge,               | Niagara.           |
| " 498,   | Rawden                          | between the Lakes. |
| " 523,   | United                          | Cornwall.          |

And that the most of the above mentioned lodges were not, even at that time, of a very recent date, is proved by the fact that in the same list we find a Lodge at Yarmouth, (England,) set down as No. 564.

So far as I have yet learned, there are no records of any of these Lodges now remaining in Upper Canada, with the exception of a portion of the minutes and other documents of the "Rawden Lodge" extending from 1797 to 1800, and at that time meeting at York. These minutes during this period are complete, but judging from its number as shewn in the above list, this lodge must have been working for several years prior to 1797.

I cannot say whether any of the Lodges enumerated above are still in existence in Lower Canada, or what materials may be extant there to compile a history of the Craft in that portion of the province, but the following advertisement copied from the first number of the Quebec Gazette published on the 21st June, 1764, shews that the first one on the list was at work one hundred and three years since.

"Notice is hereby given that on Sunday the 24th, being the Festival of St. John, such strange Brethren who may have a desire to join the Merchants Lodge, No. 1, Quebec, may obtain liberty by applying to Miles Prenties at the sun, in St. John street, who has tickets, price five shillings for the day."

I have also been led to understand that the "Union Lodge, Detroit," referred to, is still flourishing.

We turn reluctantly from these, undoubtedly the oldest Lodges in the province, to those that sprung

from the Athol Grand Lodge, (so called from its Grand Master,) and here we have in many instances an unbroken line of succession from 1794 to the present day.

Early in 1792, Bro. Wm. Jervis was appointed Secretary and Registrar of the Province of Upper Canada, and previous to his departure from England, to assume the duties of that office, he was created Provincial Grand Master by the (Athol) Grand Lodge of England.

The following is a copy of his appointment, "Athol Grand Master; Watkin Lewis, Senior Grand Warden; John Bunn, Junior Grand Warden," (and enumerating their titles, &c.) "Assembled in London on this 7th day of March, 1792, and in the year of Masonry 5792, with the representatives of the several warranted Lodges, held under the sanction and authority of the said Grand Lodge, in order to remedy the inconveniences arising from the delays and distances in communicating with this Grand Lodge upon various occasions by the warranted Lodges in Upper Canada held under our authority, and to facilitate the establishment of new Lodges, and in order, more effectually and speedily, to rectify and determine all masonic differences, and disputes and controversies, if any such should arise between the brethren now resident in the said province of Upper Canada, it was this day in Grand Lodge resolved, that a warrant be granted appointing a Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Upper Canada, who shall be invested with the full and ample powers, privileges, and authority, by the Constitution of Masonry, annexed to and vested in the said office of Provincial Grand Master.

"In pursuance whereof we do hereby nominate, constitute and appoint our trusty and well beloved Brother William Jervis, Esq., of Upper Canada, aforesaid, Grand Master of Masonry in the said province, and invest our R. W. Brother with full and ample powers, privileges, and authority, hereby authorizing and empowering our said R. W. Brother to grant Dispensations for the holding of Lodges, and making of Free Masons, to such brethren as shall be sufficiently qualified and duly recommended to receive the same, in order that such Lodges and Freemasons may be by us and our successors duly congregated and formed into regular warranted Lodges, according to the most ancient custom of the Craft in all ages and nations throughout the world, in order to which the said dispensations shall continue in force for the space of 12 calendar months from the time of issuing the same respectively and no longer. And we do by these presents further authorize, appoint, and empower our said R. W. Bro. to rectify irregularities, and to hear, adjudge, and determine all and singular matters of complaint, controversies and differences, if any such should arise, relative to the craft, when and as often as the same may occur, in any of our said Warranted Lodges or Masonic Bodies, or between the Brothers thereof, residing or being in the said province of Upper Canada aforesaid, strictly requiring all, and every, our worthy Brethren in the said province, to be conformable to all the orders and decrees which shall be made, and to all things done by our R. W. Brother, in pursuance hereof, and to aid and assist our said R. W. Brother, he our said R. W. Brother duly

"conforming to all the known and established Rules and Regulations of the Ancient Craft.

"And we do by these presents further authorize and empower our said R. W. Brother to nominate and appoint his Deputy Grand Master, in and over the said province, who shall be invested with the same powers, privileges, and authority, to act for our said R. W. Brother, our Provincial Grand Master, aforesaid, in his absence, or by his direction or desire, hereby ratifying and confirming whatever our said R. W. Provincial Grand Master or his deputy shall legally do in the due execution of their respective offices aforesaid."

"Given under our hands, and the seal of the Grand Lodge in London, the day and year above written. (Signed),

ROBERT LESLIE,  
*Grand Secretary.*"

Unfortunately R. W. Bro. Jervis was either very ignorant of the important duties devolving upon him as P. G. Master, or was very careless in performing them, perhaps both, for he allowed his subordinates to act pretty much as they pleased. The principal of these, Christopher Danby, who brought out the patent of the P. G. M. from England, was introduced to him as a good working mason, and was consequently looked upon as an oracle. He managed or was allowed to take the lead in the government of the craft, and to him are attributed those first deviations from Masonic law and usage which were so disastrous to the craft in Upper Canada for many years.

There do not appear, so far as I can learn, to have been any Lodges constituted under the patent of Bro. Jervis till 1794, in which year dispensations were granted for one year for the holding of at least six Lodges, among which was this Lodge then called No. 6, (opened on 7th Aug.,) the others were

- No. 1, Niagara.
- " 2, Queenston.
- " 3, Queens Rangers.
- " 4, Niagara.
- " 5, Edwardsburg.

When the year expired, instead of procuring warrants from England as he should have done, and as his patent directed he should do, the P. G. Master, no doubt under the influence and advice of Bro. Danby, issued warrants in perpetuity to all the above named Lodges, a thing he never would have done had he even read over the authority under which he professed to act.

In 1797 the Government was removed from Newark (now Niagara) to York (now Toronto), and Bro. Jervis necessarily took up his residence in that place; the provincial Grand Lodge however continued its functions in Niagara without the presence or interference of the P. G. Master.

Up to 1799 there had been added 9 Lodges to the 6 already in existence, viz:

- No. 7, Fredericksburgh.
- " 8 York.
- " 9, Bertie.
- " 10, Barton.
- " 11, Mohawk Village, Grand River.
- " 12, Stamford.
- " 13, New Johnstone, Elizabethtown.
- " 14, Southwold.

No. 15, Grimsby, and in 1802, the list includes 4 more, viz :

- " 16, York.
- " 17, Thurlow.
- " 18, Amherstburgh.
- " 19, Haldimand.

But previous to this the Pro. Grand Lodge appears to have taken all power into its own hands, and completely to have ignored the prov. Grand Master.

Many Lodges in consequence desired to have the Prov. Grand Lodge transferred to the seat of Government and residence of the Prov. Grand Master. This was opposed by the Niagara Brethren, and one reason they gave for their opposition was that they had been at all the expense of carrying on the operations of Prov. Grand Lodge, most of the Lodges being in arrears of dues, and should Prov. Grand Lodge be removed to York, the defaulting Lodges would carry a resolution to wipe off all outstanding claims.

The following letter shews that the Niagara Brethren were rapidly progressing in their unconstitutional assumptions.

" NIAGARA, 19 Dec., 1801.

" R. Wor. W. Jervis. Sir and Brother, At a special meeting of Grand Lodge, held by adjournment on the 14th inst., I was ordered to acquaint you with the nomination of George Forsyth, Esq., to the office of Grand Master in case of your non-attendance on the 28th inst."

S. TIFFANY,  
G. Sec'y.

This threat does not appear to have been put in execution at this time, as shewn by a printed circular containing list of Grand officers, dated Niagara, 29th March, 1802, for there we find R. Wor. W. Jervis, G. M.; R. Wor. Robt. Kerr, D. G. M.; R. Wor. Geo. Forsyth, G. S. W.; R. Wor. Alex. Stewart, G. J. W.; R. Wor. Sylvester Tiffany, G. Secretary, &c.

On the 13th of March (1802), Bro. Richard Beasley, of Barton, wrote to R. W. Bro. Jervis on the subject of the meeting of Prov. Grand Lodge, as follows:—

"To give you some information respecting the transactions of the Grand Lodge at the last Quarterly communication, I had it not in my power to attend, the Master of Lodge No. 10 however attended. Your dismissal from office was strongly urged, there being only five present, ("!!!") there was three against you and two for you; the business was postponed to the Quarterly communication in June; it is then to be brought to issue. I should suppose that you, as Prov. Grand Master, have it in your power to summon the different Lodges under your jurisdiction to meet at York. If so, why not summon them to attend at the Quarterly Communication in June, and summon the Grand Lodge with the rest. Could that be accomplished, the business would most certainly be determined in your favor, and an end put to the views of some individuals composing the Grand Lodge."

Only fancy the discussion, in a Prov. G. Lodge of the question of deposing the Prov. G. Master from his office, and in a Prov. G. Lodge too when only five members were present. No wonder the decision was postponed, but the deed appears to have been accomplished at the December Meeting of this same year, (1802) as shewn by the following extract from

a printed circular, signed Christopher Danby, P. D. G. M. and dated Niagara, 27th January, 1803.

"You have perhaps heard something respecting the Grand or Provincial Grand Warrant remaining in possession of our late Grand Master Jervis, and of the Grand Lodge being held in Niagara. We wish you to be perfectly informed of the use and intention of a Provincial Warrant. It is granted to an individual travelling into, or living in a distant part of the Globe, for the purpose of establishing masonry there; it gives the brother to whom it is granted full power and authority to issue not less than five private warrants to form a Grand Lodge. The Master and Wardens being regularly summoned for that purpose, meet as a committee, agreeably to the constitution, and out of that committee are elected the grand officers who must be installed the ensuing St. John's Day by the authority of that warrant; this being done, then ceases the power and authority of the provincial warrant, and the Grand Lodge thus constituted, is a complete Grand Lodge, &c., and their authority is equal in every respect to the Grand Lodge in England, which gave them birth."

One cannot help being amused both at the effrontery and ignorance of masonic law displayed in the above circular. We must only charitably conclude that when he penned it, poor Danby must have been under the influence of that stimulus which brought him to his grave at last.

The following, which we give entire, exceeds it however in cool impertinence.

NIAGARA, April 24th, 1803.

"R. W. Sir and Brother,—The R. W. George Forsyth being installed Grand Master for this year, I am ordered by the Grand Lodge to request that you will be pleased to send the Jewels, and whatever belongs to the Grand Lodge in your hands, that the proper officers may be installed with them. I am also directed to communicate to you that the Grand Lodge sincerely thank you for your services."

By order of Grand Lodge,  
S. TIFFANY,  
G. Sec'y

W. JERVIS, Esq.

"P. S.—Bro. Kendrick will be a proper hand by whom to send as above requested." S. T.

It must be remembered that the question was, not whether a certain number of Lodges had or had not the right to form a *Grand Lodge* in a country where there was none, (for the Prov. Grand Lodge at Niagara still professed to be under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England), but whether a Prov. Grand Lodge could, under the sanction of the warrant of a Prov. Grand Master, throw overboard that Provincial Grand Master, and without his consent or even knowledge, elect another in his place, a thing absolutely ridiculous. But what principally chafed the Niagara Brethren was that R. W. Bro. Jervis had, notwithstanding his apparent indifference to the duties of his office and to the interests of the craft, retained in his possession his patent as Prov. G. Master, and indeed it would have been highly improper not to have done so.

Many attempts were made, both previous and subsequent to this time, to obtain possession of this

document, which were some years after the death of Bro. Jervis said to have been successful, but what eventually became of it I have never heard.

The following sensible letter relating to the assumption of the P. G. Lodge, is from Bro. Jermyn Patrick, of Lodge No. 6, Kingston, to R. W. Bro. Jervis. Bro. Patrick was an Englishman, and was made a mason in his native country in 1790. He resided many years in this city, and was, if I am not mistaken, owner of the ground on which this building stands. He was well known as a worthy man and a good mason; I dare say some who now hear me, may recollect him; our records show that he was long a member of this lodge and often elected to fill the chair. The Wor. Master has just reminded me that he is a grandson of Bro. Patrick.

KINGSTON, 17th, March, 1863.

"R. W. Bro. Jervis, on the 29th January, last, I received a letter from Bro. Tiffany, dated the 18th of same month, stating that Bro. George Forsyth was Grand Master, Christopher Danby, D. G. M., &c., and wishing me to communicate the same to the different lodges. I laid the communication before No. 6. According to the present appearance of things, they highly reprobate the conduct of the members at Niagara, but forbore making a formal declaration until further information on the subject. I was by them requested to write you a private letter, requiring of you the terms of your warrant or dispensation, granted by the grand lodge of England, as much as appertains to your appointment and authority. I humbly presume R. W. Sir, the request is truly laudable, for No. 6 feel it as an incumbent duty to support you in your office, (still supposing you are right), yet want this information for the establishing of this opinion and to fully report it again to the members at Niagara. I say *again*, because they have heretofore repeatedly presumed to disapprove their conduct on this head when it was but in agitation. I mention this, doubting whether you have been fully informed of the conduct of No. 6 towards the Prov. G. Lodge, respecting this business. My doubts arise from what Bro Cotton observed. He says, you did not know me personally or by report. This I know, my conduct since I had the honor of being the Master of No. 6, has appeared conspicuous in the Prov. G. Lodge, either in a good or evil point of view, in consequence of an earnest desire that unanimity and respectability might pervade that body; we had so far exerted ourselves by frequent remonstrances, that unhappily we differed so far in opinion as to incur their censure, and it seems they were on the point of calling home our warrant, and branded us with the epithet of a litigious lodge, but finally the storm subsided. They acknowledged some irregularities, and so far acceded to our propositions as to put an end to present altercation.

"The subject matter of this dispute was, in the first place they demanded regular quarterage, with our attendance; our local situation rendered this burthensome and inconsistent; our next subject of complaint was in the official printed communications they were concluded with these words "By order of the Grand Lodge," the word "Master" being erased. Such communications we contended were illegal, and submitted it as our opinion that they had no power to sit and act as a P. G. Lodge without a warrant or dispensation any more than

"a private Lodge could do. In answer they contended that "as being a Grand Lodge fully constituted and appointed by virtue of an original warrant, they no longer needed that instrument." No. 6 rejected their arguments, and again explained. They returned us a vague answer on this head and with a view of reconciling matters acceded to our requests in other respects; so the controversy dropped. We now find the subject of complaint amply renewed by your total rejection, they having of themselves chosen another in your place. I sent you a copy of our letter to them on this subject, but as I never received an answer, am fearful it did not come to your hand.

"Permit me R. W. Sir, if I offer my private opinion on the subject which divides the minds of the Brethren of Upper Canada. The rock on which our Niagara Brethren split upon appears obvious to me, and I trust a few observations communicated by a proper channel would convince them of their error; but they are not disposed to hear counsel from inferior Lodges, especially of their own creating. The argument they use in support of their measure is, that "being a regular constituted Grand Lodge by virtue of a warrant from the Grand Lodge of England, they are fully empowered (by being so formed) to act and continue as such without the further aid of that instrument." In answer to this I observe they are not, nor never have been a Grand Lodge, but a Provincial Grand Lodge only. Permit me to say, Sir, that a Grand Lodge is a self erected power formed by the conjunction of a certain number of Lodges convened for that purpose; by virtue of that conjunction, that Grand Lodge so formed have an inherent principle of transmitting to their successors their (so acquired) authority; their minutes on record is their sufficient warrant. Such was the case in the establishment of the Grand Lodge of England, and such has repeatedly been the case in North America, for every state on the other side of the water had its Grand Lodge established, which has been acknowledged through Europe, they being no longer under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England. This is the error I presume our Niagara Brethren have fallen into, not making that necessary distinction between Grand Lodges, and Provincial Grand Lodges. Am fearful you will think me tedious, but I must presume still further on your patience when I explain my ideas of a Provincial Grand Lodge which experience taught me before I left England, for there are many Provincial Grand Lodges there for the purpose of relieving the Brethren of the Grand Lodge, also for the convenience of the craft. The Provincial Grand Master holds his authority from the Grand Master and his officers, and act as so many agents for the Grand Body; to them and to their successors they are accountable, and none else can dispossess them. There is no specific time (that I know of) when that authority dies, but at the will of the agent or the body who appoints him. If he does anything unworthy his situation, he may be reported by the Brethren who have knowledge of it, and the Grand Lodge will take cognizance of it, and if proper, dispossess him of his office. Such I presume is the situation of every Provincial Grand Master under the Grand Lodge of England, and unless our Upper Canada Brethren choose to throw off their dependence on

"the Grand Lodge of England, they must acknowledge the agent appointed them or solicit another shewing just cause. I am again constrained to ask your pardon for my prolixity."

The above letter is not the only one by any means, that might be quoted to shew the great dissatisfaction that existed at the unwarranted and illegal assumption of power by the Provincial Grand Lodge, and the Provincial Grand Master was at length aroused to exert his lawful authority to put a stop to the doings of the Niagara brethren. He decided upon calling a Provincial Grand Lodge to be held at York and the following circular was issued in his name by Bro. J. Patrick, as acting Prov. G. Secretary,

KINGSTON, 2nd October, 1803.

"By virtue of authority vested in me by the R. W. Prov. Grand Master, Wm. Jervis, Esq., of Grand Secretary, I address you on the subject of Masonry. I presume you cannot be ignorant of some of the unwarrantable proceedings of the Brethren at Niagara, I mean those who are in possession of the Regalia, who consider themselves the Grand Lodge of the Province.

"That they did, without the consent, or even the knowledge of the only true Provincial Grand Master of this province, nominally throw him out of office, and created another in his place, thereby exercising an authority unconstitutionally, which has unhappily produced anarchy and confusion among the craft. In order that the Brethren working under the sanction of the Grand Warrant may have a clear and perfect idea of their proceedings, and also in order that a true and legal Provincial Grand Lodge may be established in this province, the R. W. Prov. Grand Master, W. Jervis, has thought it expedient to have every Lodge under his jurisdiction to meet him at York in the person of their proper officers, and there to hold a grand convention and form a Prov. Grand Lodge. The Prov. Grand Officers being a deputation from the Grand Lodge of England, the person appointed cannot be divested but by the power who invested him. The above proceedings therefore are an infringement of the prerogative of the Grand Lodge of England, and when transmitted to them, which will be immediately after the Grand convention, they no doubt will take notice of it and act accordingly.

"Lodge No.—I hereby summons to attend the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, W. Jervis, at York, on the 10th day of February, 1804, a proper officer will therefore represent the Lodge, being duly clothed, and with the Jewels, to meet the officers of other subordinate Lodges in Grand convention for the purpose of restoring harmony and to settle some constitutional points in masonry heretofore unhappily misunderstood. Signed Jermyn Patrick, acting Secretary, under the deputation from the Grand Lodge of England."

A Provincial Grand Lodge was accordingly held at York, on the 10th February, 1804, and out of 21 Lodges which had been constituted under the authority of R. W. Bro. Jervis, 8 were there represented, 2 shewed good cause by letter why they could not be present, 8 did not attend and shewed no cause, and the remaining 3 were dead warrants.

After opening Prov. Grand Lodge, the Prov. Grand Masters warrant was read and also a portion

of the Constitution relating to the office of Prov. Grand Master, when it was unanimously resolved:—

"That as the irregularities of the Brethren who call themselves the Grand Lodge of this province, sitting at Niagara, have been so manifest, and contrary to the true and ancient design of the craft, and their proceedings so unconstitutional and illegal, that they have unwarrantably elected (without the consent or knowledge of the one and only legal Prov. Grand Master, W. Jervis, Esq.,) a Grand Master and other Grand Officers, and have further proceeded after such election to style themselves the Grand Lodge of Upper Canada, and have issued summonses to the different Lodges of this Province, (the same being under and within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England) to attend their Quarterly Communications and to pay up their dues.

"In order to prevent such abuses and to put a stop to such illegal practices, and further, in order that harmony should be restored to the craft in this province, an event devoutly wished by all worthy Brethren, and further, as some of the Lodges under and within the jurisdiction aforesaid have actually attended to summonses from the aforesaid Brethren of Niagara, to the end that anarchy and confusion have unhappily prevailed among the craft in the Province.

"That therefore the R. W. Bro. W. Jervis, Esq., Prov. Grand Master, being duly authorized by virtue of the Warrant from the Grand Lodge of England, summoned all the Lodges under his jurisdiction to meet him in convention at York, the 10th day of Feb'y, 1804, in order to deliberate how to remove the aforesaid evils, and constitutionally establish harmony and good order among the craft.

"Eight Lodges having assembled agreeable to summons (with the connivance of 2 others), and having had reference to the Prov. Grand Masters warrant, and also the constitution, touching the prerogatives and duties of a Prov. Grand Master, and for other good causes, do hereby feel themselves constrained to accord with the R. W. Prov. Grand Master, W. Jervis, Esq., in establishing the Prov. Grand Lodge of this province, in the town of York, and that it is hereby established accordingly."

It was also resolved "that the Prov. Grand Lodge do request our R. W. Prov. Grand Master, W. Jervis, Esq., to embrace the earliest opportunity of communicating to the Grand Lodge of England the proceedings of this Prov. Grand Lodge, at the same time to state the proceedings of that body of Masons sitting at Niagara, and calling themselves the Grand Lodge of this province, informing them (the Grand Lodge of England), that they (the aforesaid Brethren at Niagara), do wilfully withhold the regalia of the Prov. Grand Lodge and the requisite documents, by which means the Prov. Grand Lodge is not in possession of materials to make true representation of the craft in the province."

Also "that the Grand Secretary be directed to demand in the name of the R. W. Prov. Grand Master, W. Jervis, Esq., and this Prov. Grand Lodge, of the Brethren at Niagara assuming the title of the Grand Lodge of Upper Canada, the regalia with its appendages belonging to the Prov. Grand Lodge of this province."

Also, "That the Prov. G. Secretary be directed to summon the brethren who call themselves the Grand Lodge of this Province, sitting at Niagara, to attend this Prov. G. Lodge, at York, at the Quarterly communication in June next, to answer for their late unmasonic conduct."

Also, "That a Grand Chapter be established in this Province," and "that the same be held at the town of York."

This was not however carried out, but eventually (as we shall see hereafter), constituted at Kingston.

The Prov. Grand Lodge extended its sittings over three days and apparently got through a good deal of work, but after this time the Prov. Grand Master seems to have lapsed into his former state of indifference as regards masonry, and left it to govern itself, for so far as I am aware he never called another Prov. G. Lodge.

The proceedings of this Provincial Grand Lodge were sent to England and the following extracts are from the reply of the G. Secretary to Bro. Jervis, dated "30th June, 1804,—R. W. Sir an' Bro., It has been matter of serious regret that in the granting your warrants, due respect and attention has not in any one instance been paid thereto, nor any returns according to regulations, yearly or otherwise, of the members of and under the several dispensations for warrants granted by you as P. G. M.,—how to remedy this defect let me entreat the most serious attention of your Prov. Grand Lodge, and an attentive perusa' of the authority under which you act."

Although Bro. Jervis must have received this letter in the fall of 1804, he did not appear to be in any hurry to communicate its contents, for we find his Prov. G. Secretary, Bro. Patrick, thus writing to him on the 4th November, 1805, (after complaining of the slowness of the lodges, in sending in their returns, he goes on to say), "and what adds to my perplexity, and to my great surprise that no answer has been received from the Grand Lodge of England, their last return is dated last March," (proceedings of the Athol Grand Lodge), "at which time they must of course have been possession of my letter, but not one word on the subject. We must be either right or wrong. I have received communications from the Grand Lodge of Halifax and Quebec, in answer to my letter on the present establishment, they are highly gratifying," &c. I have not been able to learn what action, if any, was taken by the Niagara Brethren on the resolutions and demand of the Provincial Grand Lodge. It is evident, however, that they did not submit to Bro. Jervis, but continued to meet at intervals more or less remote. But the attendance was strictly local and never included representatives from lodges at any distance from Niagara.

We now pass over a few years, and on the 7th May, 1809, we find Lodge No. 15, requesting its Master to call on the Grand Secretary for information as to the Niagara Grand Lodge, and in May, 1811, No. 16, "by command of the lodge acknowledges in full the authority of the R. W. Bro. Jervis, and condemns the Niagara Lodge, and advises a circular to the Lodges testifying his displeasure as Prov. Grand Master, and cautioning the Lodges not to be imposed on." Lodge No. 8 also writes to the same effect in the same month.

The Niagara Brethren must at this time have been making fresh exertions to have their authority acknowledged by the Lodges, for we have another letter to Bro. Jervis from Simon Zelotes Watson, dated Ancaster, July 4th, in the same year from which we make some extracts.

"On my way from Westminster to this place, I had the pleasure to celebrate the festival of St. John the Baptist, with my brethren of 21, Oxford, and having visited the Toronto Lodge of York, last April, at the time you condescended to honor us with your presence, with the Grand Warrant, which was then read, and several communications made to that Lodge explanatory of the duplicity of the nominal Grand Lodge of Niagara, together with Mr. Kerr, being then at York, and having questioned the legality of the warrant of the Toronto Lodge, who cited him to appear and shew cause for, and substantiate his aspersions, which he notwithstanding refused to do. This information I thought it my duty to state to the Brethren of Oxford, for the good of the Royal Craft, which I did in open Lodge, and they saw it in the same light that I did, and appointed two of their members to draft a letter to the Grand Lodge of Niagara, these two asked my assistance, and I drafted a letter, of which the following is a true copy."

OXFORD, 24th June, 1811.

"R. Wor. Sir and Brother,—I have it in command from the Wor. Master, Wardens and Brethren of Lodge No. 21, in open Lodge assembled, to inform you that in your communication dated Grand Lodge, Niagara, 29th Dec, 1810, addressed to the Wor. Master of this Lodge, containing a list of Grand Officers for the present year, wherein Robert Kerr, Esq. is announced as Prov. Grand Master, and having always understood that the R. Wor. Wm. Jervis, Esq., has been legally appointed Grand Master of Masons in Upper Canada by a regular Warrant from the Grand Lodge of England, and empowering him, the said W. Jervis, Esq., to constitute and organize a Grand Lodge in the said province, and appoint the proper officers to rule and govern the same, at the same time we have always conceived that the warrant under which we work emanated from the authority of the said Grand Warrant, through the R. Wor. C. Danby, D. G. M., who we always supposed had been legally appointed to that office by said Grand Master, by whose delegated authority the said D. G. M. was authorized to issue warrants to constitute Lodges accordingly, and having been lately informed that the high and honorable situation of Grand Master is permanent and not elective, Lodge No. 21, have humbly conceived it to be then indispensable duty to look up to the Grand Master, humbly requesting to be informed whether the said Grand Warrant has been superseded by another, issued from the same source of authority, constituting and appointing the said Robert Kerr, Esq., Prov. Grand Master of Masons in the province of Upper Canada; if so we shall at all times be happy to acknowledge and recognize him as such in scrupulously observing a due subordination, in punctually paying our dues, and otherwise rendering every respect and attention consistent with the established usages, laws and customs of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and

"Accepted Masons according to the old constitutions.  
"With high consideration. I have the honor, &c.,

Signed, W. SUMNER,

*Secretary.*

"It is at the request of the Wor. Master and Brethren of Lodge 21 that I give you this information, observing at the same time that they will be happy to be honored with any Masonic communication you may think proper to make them.  
"With high consideration, I have the honor to be  
"R. W. Sir, your friend and Brother."

Signed, S. Z. WATSON.

(To be continued.)

### WISDOM—ONE OF THE PILLARS.

A man may know all about the rocks, and his heart remain as hard as they are; a man may know all about the winds, and be the sport of passion as fierce as they; a man may know all about the stars, and his fate be the meteor's, that after a brief and brilliant career, is quenched in eternal night; a man may know all about the sea, and his soul resemble its troubled waters, which can not rest; a man may know how to rule the spirits of the elements, yet know not how to rule his own; a man may know how to turn aside the flashing thunderbolt, but not the wrath of God from his own guilty head; he may know all that La Place knew—all that Shakspeare knew—all that Watt knew—all that the greatest geniuses have known; he may know all his mysteries and all knowledge, but if he does not know his Bible, what shall it avail? I take my stand by the bed of a dying philosopher, as well as of a dying miser, and ask of the world's wisdom, as of the world's wealth, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

I despise not the lights of science, but they burn in a dying chamber as dim as its candles. They can not penetrate the mists of death, nor light the pathway of the weary traveller on his way in that valley through which we have all to pass. Commend me, therefore, to the light which illumines the last hour of his life; commend me to the light that can irradiate the face of death; commend me to the light that, when all others are quenched, shall guide my foot to the portals of that blessed world where there is no need of the moon, and no need of any created lights, for God and the Lamb are the light thereof. Brethren, leave others to climb the steepes of fame; brother, put your feet upon the ladder that scales the sky, nor mind though your brows are never crowned with fading bays, if you win, through faith, the crown of eternal life.

*Some of the craft banners, under which the Scottish craftsman fought in the troubles of the 17th century, are still in existence. One bears this inscription: "The perfect honor of a craft, or beauty of a trade, is not in wealth, but in moral worth, whereby virtue gains renown," and is surmounted by the words "Grace and peace," bearing date 1604.*

FREEMASONRY is an establishment founded on the benevolent intention of extending and conferring mutual happiness, upon the best and truest principles of moral life and social virtue.

### THE WORLD WOULD BE THE BETTER FOR IT, —LOVE—CHARITY.

BY M. H. COBB.

If men cared less for wealth and fame,  
And less for battle-fields and glory;  
If writ in human hearts a name  
Seemed better than in song or story;  
If men, instead of nursing pride,  
Would learn to hate it and abhor it;  
If more relied on love to guide,  
*The world would be the better for it.*

If men dealt less in stocks and lands,  
And more in deeds and bonds fraternal;  
If Love's work had more willing hands,  
To link this world to the supernal;  
If men stored up love's oil and wine,  
And on bruised human hearts would pour it;  
If "yours" and "mine" would once combine,  
*The world would be the better for it.*

If more would act the play of life,  
And fewer spoil it in rehearsal;  
If bigotry would sheathe its knife  
Till good became more universal;  
If custom, gray with ages grown,  
Had fewer blind men to adore it;  
If talent shown for truth alone,  
*The world would be the better for it.*

If men were wise in little things,  
Affecting less in all their dealings;  
If hearts had fewer rusted strings  
To isolate their kindly feelings;  
If men, when wrong beats down the right,  
Would strike together and restore it;  
If right made might in every fight,  
*The world would be the better for it.*

### THE TRUE MASON'S DUTY.

What can be more divine than the moral precepts of Masonry? What more sublime than Charity—the soul and essence of Masonry? To love your neighbor as yourself; to love your Creator without reserve; to love even your enemies; to forget injuries; pardon offences; conquer evil with good; to be joyful with those that are happy; to weep with those in affliction; to enlighten those that are in darkness; to reclaim those who have strayed; to judge not rashly, lest ye be judged; and to assist the unfortunate, are among the duties we are called upon to fulfil by the action of our Masonic vows. We are not to measure the riches or talents of our neighbor, but to dispense our gifts to those who lack them. Not to advance our own interests, but rather to sacrifice them to the general good of humanity. We are to be good, true, compassionate, affable, generous, merciful and clement. To be a faithful subject in the country where you live, respect the laws, a constant friend, a worthy husband, a good father, a tender, respectful and submissive son, a careful and vigilant master, full of charity towards all, and favor and countenance all honest intentions. Show me a world of true Masons, and I will point you to the peaceful abode of innocence and happiness.



**The Craftsman,**  
AND BRITISH AMERICAN MASONIC RECORD.

"THE QUEEN AND THE CRAFT."

HAMILTON,..... MAY 15, 1867.

**HISTORY OF MASONRY IN CANADA.**

In the second number of the CRAFTSMAN we referred to the action taken by the Grand Lodge to procure the preparation of a history of Freemasonry in this Province, and to the proceedings already taken by the excellent Committee appointed for that purpose. Brother Fowler, of Kingston, as Chairman of the Committee, has taken a great deal of pains to collate from the records which have come into his possession, a readable history of the Craft in Canada, and with great kindness he has offered to give the brethren, through the columns of this journal, the benefit of his laborious and pains-taking labours. We publish this month the first part of the history of Freemasonry in this Country, which will be followed by three other papers of about the same length, making in all a very complete and intensely interesting resume of the early history and continued progress of Craft Masonry in Canada. We are quite sure that our readers will peruse with the greatest interest, these papers; and that they will join with us in thanking Bro. Fowler for having added to the many services which he has already rendered Freemasonry, this additional and most important effort to instruct and improve them.

**SANCTITY OF THE BALLOT.**

The obligations which prevail among Freemasons towards each other, the principles of brotherly love, relief and truth which ought to govern their intercourse, and the deep responsibility which rests upon them to observe, at all times and under all circumstances, the five points of fellowship, render the duty of exercising great caution and judgment in the admission of members a most imperative one. So strongly has the importance attaching to the admission of members to a Lodge been felt, that the old regulations of the Grand Lodge of England, as revised in 1767, insisted upon unanimity, and provided for the preservation of that unanimity, in these words:—"But no man can be entered a brother in any particular lodge, or admitted a member thereof, without the unanimous consent of all the members of the lodge then present, when the candidate is prepared, and when their consent is formally asked by the Master. They are to give their consent in their own prudent way, either virtually or in form, but with unanimity. Nor is this inherent privilege subject to a dispensation; because the members of

a particular lodge are the best judges of it; and because if a turbulent member should be imposed upon them, it might spoil their harmony, or hinder the freedom of their communication, or even break or disperse the lodges, which ought to be avoided by all true and faithful." The rule in this country does not require absolute unanimity, but two black balls appearing against a candidate absolutely excludes him beyond the power of appeal. So that the regulations of Freemasonry provide the fullest protection against unworthy men being admitted to a participation in the advantages of the Craft.

Not only is this almost absolute unanimity required, but the greatest secrecy is enforced. In the Book of Constitutions, under the head "of members and their duty," we read, "Any brother who shall violate the secrecy of the ballot on candidates for initiation or membership, by stating how he voted or intended to vote, or by endeavoring to ascertain how a brother voted, or if he should be aware and mention it to another brother, shall render himself liable to severe Masonic censure, and for a second offence, to expulsion." By this rule the duty of accepting or rejecting a candidate is thrown upon the individual Mason. It is a matter between himself and his own conscience, the very secrecy of which but enhances the magnitude of the responsibility under which he rests. Weighing well the obligations which the candidate will have to assume towards his brethren on his entrance into Freemasonry, and the corresponding obligations which he and his brethren are at once placed under towards the newly initiated member, he has to decide whether the person applying is qualified to fulfil those obligations or entitled to receive the benefits of the institution. Upon the decision of that question must depend the manner in which the ballot shall be exercised.

The qualifications for a candidate for Freemasonry are clearly laid down in the ancient charges. "The persons made members or admitted members of a lodge must be good and true men, free born, and of mature and discreet age and sound judgment; no bondmen, no women, no immoral or scandalous men, but of good report." These are the simple qualifications required in the candidate; and upon his possession of them must depend the question of his admission to the Craft. A sound mind, and high moral principle, a willingness to obey the moral law, a belief in the glorious architect of heaven and earth, and the constant practice of the sacred duties of morality—these are the requisites in those who are to seek, and be entitled to obtain, the privileges of Freemasonry. Upon their possession of them, and upon that alone, must depend the exercise of the right of ballot. No member of a lodge has a right, for mere personal considerations, to impose upon the fraternity an un-

worthy member; the sacred and conscientious exercise of the Masonic franchise is incumbent upon all. It should be remembered that from the moment of his initiation, the Freemason not only assumes serious obligations towards the entire fraternity, but that the fraternity is placed in a position of great responsibility and under the most solemn obligations to him; and the constant remembrance of this fact is the best guarantee for the honest maintenance of the sanctity of the ballot.

It is to be feared that in some cases the desire to increase the membership of a Lodge, and to promote its financial prosperity, begets a disposition of laxity in this matter. Nothing can be more dangerous to the interests of the Craft than this spirit of indifference. It tends to the introduction of men who become a discredit to the fraternity; it provokes a want of cordiality and good feeling among Masons; it interferes with the full exercise of the great Masonic precept of brotherly love; it induces a carelessness, sometimes an entire forgetfulness, of the sanctity of the Masonic obligations, and it gives to profanes the opportunity of pointing the finger of reproach at us, and exclaiming, "see how these Freemasons hate one another." Let it be our object to preserve the institution from the presence of the unworthy, to deposit our ballot with the full consciousness of the great responsibility involved in the act, and we may then hope for a membership, pure and unsullied, a membership which, by the exhibition of good works, will challenge the respect of all who care to investigate the principles of Ancient Free and Accepted Masonry.

#### THE MASONIC ASYLUM.

In the year 1859, during the Session of the Grand Lodge at Kingston, a Memorial from the Officers of St. Andrew's Lodge of Toronto, suggesting the desirability of raising some public Masonic Monument in exemplification of the grand and fundamental principles of our Order, "Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth," was submitted for the consideration of the Craft: and the appointment of a Committee, whose duty it should be to ascertain the most satisfactory method of carrying out that object, was prayed for. In compliance with that prayer a Committee was named by the Grand Master.

At the succeeding annual Communication, held at Ottawa in the year 1860, the Committee expressed their regret that so much time had, up to that period, been lost, and earnestly recommended their re-appointment and the nomination of a Chairman, with instructions to take immediate steps for bringing the subject before the Craft in a tangible shape, with a view to action being taken thereupon without further delay.

And, once more, during the Sixth Communication,

which took place at London in the year 1861, the Committee presented their Report, a Report drawn up with great ability, of a truly Masonic character, and one which all who were fortunate enough to hear read, listened to, I feel assured, with sentiments of unbounded satisfaction.

Various, and nobly supported, are the Masonic Institutions in different quarters of the Globe: there are Schools, there are Hospitals, there are Asylums; and some difficulty was experienced, while weighing the respective merits displayed by these different Establishments, in selecting *one* to the rejection of the others, as the one most likely to be productive, in this Province, of the greatest amount of good. An Asylum was finally determined on; and, for myself, I fully recognize the wisdom of the selection. The aged, the destitute, the widowed, the orphaned members, or relatives of members, of our Craft have the most pressing claims upon our notice: and all these will be admissible within the walls of our Sanctuary.

There are Common Schools in every Township of the Province wherein the children of Freemasons may receive, equally with all other children, a good and almost gratuitous education: there are "Homes" in most of our larger Towns where the old and the infirm may find a refuge: there are Hospitals, too, including one for the deaf, the dumb, and the blind: and there are numerous and safe Assurance Companies for the use and the benefit of the provident when failing strength forbids the arm to work,—or when death lays low the Parent on whose exertions a whole family has haply depended for subsistence: but there is no Institution that subserves the purposes to which our proposed Asylum will be devoted; there is none, of any description, appropriated *exclusively* to the requirements of our ancient and honourable Fraternity. And when it is borne in mind that, at the time the subject was first mooted, it was calculated that there were 10,000 Members of our Body, independent, of course, of their wives and children, then resident in Canada, and that that number is now largely increased, the effort we are making, the appeal we are urging, in behalf of such an Institution should be deemed neither uncalled for nor premature.

The only question for our consideration, then, is that regarding the method to be adopted for raising a Fund sufficient for our purpose. An appeal was made, some few years ago, to the various subordinate Lodges, working under the Grand Lodge of Canada, for Lodge Contributions in aid of this great undertaking. In some instances, among others in the case of my own Lodge, the Corinthian Lodge of Peterboro, that appeal met with a prompt and cheerful response; but the great majority of the Lodges neglected to furnish a practical expression of their adhesion to the recommendation of the

Committee. In this, as in other instances, whether connected with Freemasonry or not, it was said, "We prefer waiting to see how the matter answers, and how the money will be disposed of." Now, it is self-evident that unless funds be forthcoming for any specific object, that object is unattainable; and it is much to be regretted that a sum of money commensurate with the ability of each Lodge, was not at once contributed by every Lodge in the Province, with a proviso, if thought desirable, that such sums be invested, *as the sums actually paid have been invested*; and, in the event of the scheme being abandoned through want of sufficient funds, be returned to the respective Lodges.

It was, of course, expected that those members of the Craft who could afford to contribute personally to the fund would be rejoiced at the opportunity furnished them of doing so; and in testimony of my not offering to others suggestions I am not prepared to adopt myself, I trust I shall not be accused of undue egotism when I say that I experienced much gratification in being able to contribute as an individual Mason, irrespective of my position as a member of a Lodge.

Now, although the private Lodges, or at all events some of them, and although individuals also, may feel disposed to make a second donation in behalf of the proposed Asylum, they certainly cannot be expected, they should not even be asked, to do so until *some* sum has been contributed by every Lodge in the Province; and I venture to give expression to an earnest hope that the various Lodges will, *without delay*, forward to the Committee such sum as they can afford.

Nor should the Craft confine themselves to such donations. *Annual Subscriptions* might surely be expected from Lodges and from individual Masons for the purpose of meeting the current expenses of the Institution when the building is completed. And when we consider how few calls of a charitable nature are made upon us in Canada, as compared with such as are made in England, we ought not to grudge an annual offering in aid of a charity so noble as the one we have in contemplation. There are not, it is true, in this Colony, instances of wealth so vast, of incomes so princely, as may be met with "at home"; but, on the other hand, there is not nearly the same amount of destitution; the classes called the "lower classes," I use not the term offensively, are certainly better off here than there; and, while the cases of distress presented to our notice are less numerous than are to be found on the other side of the Atlantic, the ability to relieve those cases is less restricted. For myself, I should deem it a privilege as well as a duty, and such principles ought ever to go hand in hand, to be an *annual* subscriber to the Asylum.

It might be as well, however, to defer for a brief

interval any arrangement of details, for the following reason. On the 6th day of November, 1864, when the question of the Confederation of the Provinces of British North America began to be seriously discussed, I wrote to the then Grand Master of Canada, suggesting that, simultaneously with that Confederation, a confederation of the Grand Lodges should also be adopted. My suggestion, the first, I believe, that was made on the subject, received no acknowledgment, but the question was alluded to by the Grand Master at the subsequent communication of the Grand Lodge at Toronto in 1865, and was again referred to last year in Montreal. As this question is one of great importance, and as, upon the acceptance or the rejection of a scheme for this Confederation, much of the machinery of our Grand Lodge may depend, it would, I think, be prudent, while making meantime every effort in behalf of the Building Fund, to leave in abeyance a discussion of details of Site, of Architecture, and of Management. I may, however, remark in conclusion, that the edifice may be so constructed as to be adequate to our present requirements and our present available assets, but with a view to future additions in the shape of wings or otherwise. In the event of the other Grand Lodges of British North America uniting with us, the situation should be tolerably easy of access to all, and the building may be of larger dimensions and more elaborate style than if we have to depend solely upon ourselves.

VINCENT CLEMENTE, G. C.,  
P. M. Corinthian Lodge, Peterboro, C. W.

### LODGE DISCUSSIONS.

How shall we make our Lodge meetings more interesting, and secure the more general attendance of the members, and the re-affiliation of the un-affiliated, is a subject upon which we should be glad to have the opinion of some of the old Craftsmen of Canada, whose experience would qualify them to write on the subject. There is no question of greater importance, and none more worthy of earnest consideration. In France we notice that the Lodges discuss general subjects, announcing for each evening the special question of debate. Thus we find one Lodge discussing the effect of learning upon the arts, morals and manners of society; another discusses the death penalty; another the rights and duties of man in society; another takes up the subject, Divine and human morality, and ought an intolerant morality to be tolerated; another is considering the means for making Masonry practical in commercial transactions; the influence of fashion upon industry; Science, and the education of Man from a Masonic view; fine arts and civilization; literature, and the creation of one universal national language. These subjects

are all discussed with great earnestness, not in the mere debating school spirit, but with the intention of arriving at the truth, and their discussion must be attended with very great interest to the Lodges. How would the adoption of a similar method of making the Lodge meetings places of interest and instruction, answer in this country? The subject is at least worthy of consideration.

### TROUBLE IN MASSACHUSETTS.

We learn from our American exchanges that a recent order of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, is creating a great deal of dissatisfaction in the fraternity in that State. It appears from statements in the *Masonic Monthly*, published in Boston, that the Grand Lodge is not careful to afford to the Lodges under its jurisdiction that full and satisfactory information in relation to its finances which, as contributors to its funds, they are entitled to receive. It is stated that at the first quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge in 1866, upon the report of the Committee of five permanent members, to whom was referred the Address of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, a vote was unanimously passed, ordering the Grand Master to report the amount of expenditures for certain purposes in his annual address, and also instructing him to make a detailed report of the financial condition of the Grand Lodge on the same occasion. This "order" was disregarded by the Grand Master. In his next address he simply ignored the matter altogether, and the complaint is that the Grand Lodge failed to insist upon its order being complied with.

What gives point to these complaints is a recent order of the Grand Lodge, laying an additional tax upon the Lodges under its jurisdiction. It appears that a very magnificent and costly Masonic Temple has recently been erected in Boston, and that it has cost so much money that further contributions are required in order to pay off the debt upon it. The Grand Lodge, in order to raise this money, has passed an order requiring all members initiated hereafter to pay, in addition to the fees payable to the Lodge, the sum of five dollars to be handed over to the Grand Lodge. In addition to this, all affiliated Masons are required to contribute an additional dollar a year for the next thirteen years to the same fund; and all unaffiliated Masons have to pay twenty-five cents every time they visit a lodge, for the same purpose. It is estimated that this will, assuming the increase of membership in the future to be the same as in the past, realize in the thirteen years the large sum of half a million of dollars. It is complained that some Boston Lodges, which of course derive the greatest advantage from the new Temple, have "limited their membership to a certain number, will not admit any more to mem-

bership in their lodge, though they do not hesitate to take the fee from a worthy candidate, and confer the degrees upon him, and having done this, they turn adrift upon the Fraternity an unaffiliated Mason, to be taxed for not belonging to some lodge." A writer in the *Monthly* puts the complaint very strongly. He says, "Your country Lodges through their members, receive no direct benefit from these rooms in being allowed to hold meetings there, and many of the towns in your vicinity have flourishing Chapters and Encampments of their own, and are not to be benefitted by meetings of those branches of the institution, but many of these belong to the higher degrees, and these meetings they come to the city to attend. One branch of these is prohibited by the Grand Lodge from meeting in the apartments now occupied by them at 10 Summer Street, and on the same ground will be denied the privilege of holding their meetings within the new Temple. This, the only opportunity they have of enjoying with their city brethren the new quarters, is to be denied them, and these brethren are expected to come up and generously contribute towards raising a Temple from which they are to be excluded."

While deeply regretting that any want of harmony should exist among our Massachusetts brethren, we cannot help calling the attention of the Craft in Canada to the very satisfactory manner in which reports of the financial position of our own Grand Lodge are regularly laid before them, enabling them to know precisely how moneys are expended and what is the financial position of the Grand Lodge. To the organization of the Board of General Purposes, and to the care and labour bestowed by the members of that Board upon the matters referred to them, we are in no small degree indebted for this satisfactory state of things. The reports of the officers are there carefully examined and their accounts audited; and regularly every Lodge is furnished with the result of their labours in a detailed report upon the finances. By this means no dissatisfaction of the nature of that which has arisen among our Massachusetts brethren, is possible among us, and the fact is one which we feel an honest pride in calling attention to. Every sixpence contributed by subordinate Lodges is not only carefully expended or invested, but every contributing Freemason has the opportunity of knowing exactly how our finances stand.

**THE CRAFTSMAN.**—The April number of this excellent Masonic serial has been received from the publishers, Messrs. T. & R. White, *Spectator* office, Hamilton. It is a splendid number, containing matter of more than ordinary interest to Brethren in the Niagara District especially. We advise all our Masonic friends to procure and read the *Craftsman*, as we are sure it will supply them with a large amount of *light* not otherwise easy of attainment.—*St. Catharines Constitutional.*

## GIFT CONCERTS.

We notice by our American exchanges that some shrewd people in the State of New York are making use of Masonry to get up gift concerts, a species of swindling of purely American origin, and which has recently become somewhat popular. One circular is issued purporting to come from the New York Masonic Building Association, with a plan for the distribution of seats at a concert to be given in September next. This circular emanates from some colored people in the Empire city, who know nothing of Masonry, and are in no way entitled to use its name as a cover for their speculation. Other great gift concerts are to be given professedly in the interest of the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund. These we are assured are purely and simply the result of private enterprise, with which Masonry has nothing whatever to do, and they have no Masonic sanction whatever. The *National Freemason*, which cautions the Fraternity against these gift concerts, states that neither the Grand Lodge nor any subordinate Lodge under its jurisdiction, nor the Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Asylum Fund, have given the slightest sanction to the enterprise, and are not in any degree responsible for what may or may not be done. It is very much to be regretted that the name of Masonry should thus be used by unprincipled men to promote their private interests.

## REPORTS OF GRAND LODGES.

We are in receipt of a number of volumes containing the reports of the proceedings of Grand Lodges, all of which contain matter of great interest to the Craft. We summarize them as follows:

## TENNESSEE.

The Grand Lodge of this State met in the City of Nashville, on the first Monday in December last, the M. W. Bro. Thomas A. Hamilton, G. M., presiding. There were 135 Past Masters present, and 214 Lodges were represented. The address of the Grand Master is a very interesting one. Among a number of recommendations which he makes, is one for the appointment of District Grand Masters, and lecturers to assist the Grand Master in his work, uniformity in work being the object principally aimed at in this recommendation. A number of interesting decisions are reported by him, among them some relating to the initiation of persons who were maimed, one wanting a hand, another an arm, and so on. In each case his decision was against the admission of such persons. The Grand Master also recommended the establishment of a Masonic Asylum, but the subject was, on report of a special Committee, deferred until the next Annual Communication. The receipts of the Grand Lodge during the year amounted to \$6,994 05. The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, presented for the first time in six years, the terrible years of the civil war, is very interesting. It embodies remarks upon the reports of thirty-eight

Grand Lodges, our own and that of Nova Scotia being among the number. Judging by the number of dispensations granted for new Lodges, Freemasonry in Tennessee appears to be in a flourishing condition.

## MICHIGAN.

The Grand Lodge of Michigan met at Adrian on January 9th, 1867. There were 180 representatives present, besides the Grand Officers. The Grand Master's Address was a very able one, from which we have already published an extract in the CRAFTSMAN. As an evidence of the care which the Craft exhibit in the admission of members, the Grand Master cites the case of seven Lodges, which during the year accepted 98 and rejected 220 applicants for membership. The address specially refers to the caution and discretion of these Lodges, as deserving the commendation and approbation of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Master also refers to the effort being made to establish a great central National University, with an endowment of a million of dollars, and commends it to the attention of the fraternity. The Committee on Foreign Correspondence report upon the proceedings of thirty-six Grand Lodges,—referring specially to the proceedings which led to the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, and extending to it the right hand of fellowship. The Grand Lodge recommended that warrants be given to thirty-two Lodges which have been working under dispensation.

## ARKANSAS.

The Grand Lodge of this State met at the City of Little Rock on Wednesday the 5th day of November, 1866, one hundred and eight subordinate Lodges being represented. The Grand Master refers to the prosperity which had marked the Order during the year in the jurisdiction. At the previous meeting, twelve months before, out of 170 chartered Lodges on the register, but fifty were represented, and he gives a deplorable picture of the sufferings which Masons and Masonry had endured during the war. Dispensations were granted for sixteen Lodges during the year, and they were confirmed by Grand Lodge, and warrants issued. But the Order has evidently not yet fully recovered from the evils of the civil conflict. Many of the Lodges had made no returns to the Grand Lodge, and it will doubtless take some time before Masonry in Arkansas can be said to be in a perfectly settled condition. The Committee on Foreign Correspondence gives summaries of the proceedings of thirty-one Grand Lodges, among them that of Canada. Referring to our Board of General Purposes, the report says: "They have in the Grand Lodge of this jurisdiction a 'Board of General Purposes' that seems to be a sort of 'maid of all work,' through whose hands all reports, resolutions, &c., must pass for inspection before being submitted to the Grand Lodge. We rather like the idea. It certainly abridges the work in the Lodge, and doubtless prevents many unnecessary matters from infringing on the time of its sessions."

## MONTANA.

The proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Montana, which held its second Annual Communication at the City of Virginia in October last, is, as a specimen of typography, the most beautiful that has come under our notice. They are printed on thick, tinted

paper, in old style type, with blue and gold cover. Only nineteen members were present in addition to the Grand Officers. The Grand Master's address is a very practical one, dealing with questions immediately affecting the interests of Freemasonry in the Territory. He granted three dispensations for new Lodges during the year. The Committee on Correspondence, owing to the difficulties in mail communication with the new district, had received the proceedings of only eight Grand Lodges, which they report upon. The receipts of the Grand Lodge amounted only to \$560, and their disbursements to \$602.22, leaving the Grand Secretary out of pocket \$42.22. We notice that the Grand Lodge pays representatives a mileage and per diem allowance for their attendance, a rather questionable provision.

#### GEORGIA.

The Grand Lodge of the State of Georgia met at Macon in October last, two hundred and fifty-four representatives being present. The Grand Master in his address speaks despondingly of the State of the country, and urges the duty of the Fraternity as men and Masons to bring about a better state of things. He condemns the too liberal grants of charters, and the multiplication of lodges, as tending to demoralize our institution, and points out that the real prosperity of Masonry does not depend solely upon the mere increase of membership. The reports of the District Grand Masters, on the whole, present a favorable picture of the condition of Masonry throughout the State. The Grand Lecturer in his report, however, gives rather a different picture, declaring that among the 110 Lodges which he visited, he "saw and heard much to cause the deepest feeling of mortification and regret." This refers, as he points out afterwards, to the want of thorough Masonic knowledge on the part of the brethren. The Grand Lecturer notices the action of Lodges in receiving or rejecting candidates. Fifty-eight initiated 1207 and rejected 97, and thirty-one others initiated 461 and rejected 327. The Grand Lodge adopted a resolution to the effect that no dispensation should be granted for opening a new Lodge in any County where a chartered Lodge already exists and is at work, and that no dispensation shall be given until the Grand Master has examined the proposed W. M., and found him to be well instructed. We have the usual report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, reviewing the proceedings of nineteen Grand Lodges.

The M. W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, has during the past week accepted the exchange of Representatives with the under-mentioned Grand Orient, and we are enabled to give a list of the appointments made to represent the Grand Lodge of Canada:

- III. Bro. I. M. C. OREN, at the G. Orient of Cuba.
- III. Bro. DR. FRANCESCO DE PAULA ROMAS, at the G. Orient of Brazil.
- III. Bro. J. M. SAMPER ANGIANO, at the Grand Orient of New Grenada, Columbia.
- III. Bro. ANTONIO M. MOLLEJAS, at the Grand Orient of Venezuela.
- III. Bro. ADOLPH R. PFEL, at the Grand Orient of Uruguay.
- III. Bro. JOAS CAETANG, D'ALMEIDA, at the Grand Orient of Portugal.
- III. Bro. LOUIS GOUPIL, 33°, at the Grand Orient of Mexico.
- III. Bro. FRANCESCO DE LUCA, at the Grand Orient of Italy.
- III. Bro. A. M. MEDINA, at the Grand Orient of Chili.
- R. W. Bro. E. T. CARR, at the Grand Lodge of Kansas.

#### MASONIC CEREMONY.

##### LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH.

The corner stone of St. Alban's Church, Ottawa, was laid with Masonic honours on Thursday last, the 9th inst., a special dispensation having been issued to M. W. Bro. T. D. Harington, F. G. M., to convene a Grand Lodge for that purpose. There were upwards of 1,500 persons present, including the fine band of the 100th Regiment, the Ottawa Cadet Corps, and the members of the various Lodges in the city and its vicinity. The Masons met at their Hall on Elgin street, and when they had been organized in due and ancient form,—the Grand Master being represented by Most Worshipful Bro. T. D. Harington, F. G. M., and the Grand Secretary, by V. W. Bro. G. C. Reiffenstein,—the fraternity proceeded to the ground. All interested being now met together, the service connected with the ceremony commenced by the Venerable the Archdeacon of Ontario, reading the 84th and 86th Psalms, and offering the customary prayer, when the Acting Grand Master (Most Worshipful Bro. T. D. Harington) stepped forward, and said:—

Men, Women and Children, here assembled to-day, know all of you that we are lawful Masons, true to the laws of our country, and established of old, with peace and honor in most countries to do good to our Brethren and Fellow creatures—to assist in the erection of buildings—and to fear God, who is the Great Architect of all things. We have, indeed, certain secrets not to be revealed; but these secrets are lawful and honorable, and unless our craft were good and our calling honest, we should not have existed for so many centuries, or have had so many illustrious men ever ready to sanction our proceedings and contribute to our prosperity. We know that our ancient order is founded upon the purest principles of piety and virtue, and that it inculcates the steady carrying out of those golden precepts—*"Do unto others as you would they should do unto you,"*—and *"Love your neighbor as yourself;"* and that it also teaches and calls upon its members to practice that "charity" of tongue as well as heart, that would rather veil than blazon the errors of others—the charity that, as our first Great Light, the Bible, declares *"thinketh no evil and never faileth,"* and without which, though a man give all his goods and money to the poor, his work is as "nothing." In all ages, Masons have borne their part in the erection of stately and other edifices, but in none do they take so much hearty interest as in those intended for the public worship of God, the promulgation of His wise, beneficent and just laws and commands, and the making known His most inexhaustible Mercies. To operative Masons the Corner or Foundation stone of every building is of primary importance, and as Freemasons, we call the attention of every newly made Brother to its symbolical significance and tell him that, on his admittance, He figuratively represents that stone, and that we trust he will, on the foundation then and there laid, raise a superstructure perfect in all its parts, honorable to our ancient institution and creditable to himself. To-day we are here assembled by request, to assist in the interesting ceremony of laying, with appropriate forms and according to ancient custom, the Foundation or Corner Stone of this new Church, proposed to be erected, not only as a seemly ornament to, but to meet the existing great want of religious accommodation in your thriving and important city; and, while admiring the energy of its promoters, we pray God to prosper this undertaking, if it seem good to Him, that it may become a building for good men and good deeds, and the promotion of religious harmony and brotherly love till the world shall come to an end!

General response—"So mote it be."

GRAND MASTER.—Our reverend chaplain will now implore a blessing from Heaven on the undertaking.

The Acting Grand Chaplain then offered the following prayer:—

Great Architect of the Universe, Maker and Ruler of all Worlds, Deign from Thy Celestial Throne and Temple, from Realms of Light and Glory, to help us in all the purposes of our present assembly. We humbly pray Thee to give us at this and at all times wisdom in all our doings, strength of mind in all our difficulties, and the beauty of harmony in all our communications. Permit us, O Thou Author of Light and Life, Great Source of Love and happiness,

to erect this Building so that hereafter it may be useful, and blessed for the all-important purposes for which it is intended, and the promotion of Thy Glory. Glory to God in the highest!

General Response—As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end,—Amen!

The Acting Grand Secretary, Bro. G. C. Reiffenstein, then read the inscription as follows:—

By the favor of Almighty God!

On the ninth day of May, A. D., 1867,  
of the Era of Freemasonry, 5867,  
And in the Thirtieth year of the Reign  
of

Our beloved Sovereign, QUEEN VICTORIA,

The Right Honorable Charles Stanley, Viscount Monck, Baron Monck, &c., &c., being Governor General of the Provinces of British North America, about to become the Dominion of Canada.

William Mercer Wilson, Esq., L. L. D.,  
Being Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of  
Freemasons of Canada.

The Reverend Thomas Bedford Jones, M. A.,  
L. L. D., Incumbent,

The Venerable Henry Patton, D. C. L.,  
Archdeacon of the Diocese of Ontario,

Norris Godard, } Church Wardens.  
Thomas Starmer, }

King Arnoldi, Architect,

Thomas Painter, } Contractors and  
George Taylor, } Builders.

The Corner Stone of this "St. Alban's Church" was laid by the Most Worshipful, THOMAS DOUGLAS HARRINGTON, Past Grand Master, assisted and attended by an Especial Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Canada, and various Lodges and Brethren, whom may God prosper.

*List of Lodges held in Ottawa.*

Doric Lodge,	No. 58, Registry of Canada.
Corinthian Lodge,	" 59, " "
Civil Service Lodge,	" 148, " "
Builders' Lodge,	" 177, " "
Dalhousie Lodge,	" 571, Registry, England.

By order,

Geo. C. REIFFENSTEIN,  
Acting Grand Secretary.

The inscription, with a number of coins, newspapers, &c., were then deposited in a suitable bottle, which was placed in an opening in the stone reserved for the purpose.

A very handsome gavel, purchased from the establishment of Messrs. Young & Radford, was then handed to the GRAND MASTER, who stood in the East, with the Acting Deputy Grand Master on his right hand and the Wardens in the West. The cement having been spread on the lower stone, the upper stone was slowly lowered into its position by three regular stops. The Junior Warden having applied the plum rule, the Senior Warden the level, and the Deputy Grand Master the square, the GRAND MASTER, addressing the Junior Warden, said:—

BRO. JUNIOR WARDEN,—What is the proper jewel of your office?

JUNIOR WARDEN—The plumb rule.

GRAND MASTER—Have you applied the plumb rule to the edges of the stone?

JUNIOR WARDEN—I have, and the craftsmen have done their duty.

GRAND MASTER (now addressing the SENIOR WARDEN.)—Bro. Senior Warden, what is the proper jewel of your office?

SENIOR WARDEN—The level.

GRAND MASTER—Have you applied the level to the top of the stone?

SENIOR WARDEN—I have, and the craftsmen have done their duty.

GRAND MASTER, (addressing his Deputy.)—Bro. DEPUTY, what is the proper jewel of your office?

DEPUTY—The square.

GRAND MASTER—Have you applied the square to those parts of the stone that should be square?

DEPUTY—I have, and the craftsmen have done their duty.

The ACTING GRAND MASTER—Then, brethren, having full confidence in your skill in our Royal Art, it remains with me as the representative of our M. W. Brother the GRAND MASTER of the Grand Lodge of Canada, now to finish our work. (He here gave three knocks with the Gavel, and added): Well formed, true and trusty, and well laid; And may this undertaking be conducted and completed by the craftsmen according to the grand plan in Peace, Harmony and Brotherly Love!

Corn, Wine and Oil were then handed to the Grand Master, by the Deputy, and poured each upon the stone.

The CHAPLAIN then pronounced the following benediction:—

May Corn, Wine and Oil, and all the necessaries of life abound among men throughout the world, and may the blessing of the Supreme Architect of the Universe be upon this edifice and all connected with it.

General Response—So mote it be. Amen.

The GRAND MASTER then handed the implements and plans to the Architect, saying:—

The foundation stone of this building being now laid, I present you the implements applied to it, and also the plan, in full confidence that as a skillful and faithful workman, you will use them in such a manner that this building may rise in order, harmony and beauty; and, being perfected in strength, that it may answer every purpose for which it is intended, to your credit, and the satisfaction and honor of those who have selected you for the work.

The GRAND MASTER, addressing the incumbent, said:—

Rev. Sir, having completed our work, according to the ancient usages of Freemasonry, we offer you our congratulations, and transfer the building to you for completion, having no doubt that, as it has happily been begun, it will be carried on by God's will to a happy ending.

"The hymn, "My house shall be called a house of prayer," was then sung, after which the Venerable the Archdeacon delivered a most eloquent address, which was listened to most attentively by the large assemblage. The Psalm, (122nd), "I was glad when they said unto me," and the hymn, "Behold I lay in Zion a Chief Corner Stone, elect precious," were then sung, and the ceremony was concluded with the following prayer:—

O God, Who art the shield and defence of Thy people, Be ever at hand, we beseech Thee, to protect and succour the builders of this house; and grant, that the work so far forwarded by Thy mercy, may by their labor be brought to a happy end; through Jesus Christ Our Lord.—Amen.

O God, Who hast built the living temple of Thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Corner-Stone, Give to the work of Thine Own Hands continued increase of glory and spiritual strength, and daily make Thy people (especially those now present) more meet for the eternal tabernacle of Thy rest in the Heavens, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to Whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end.—Amen.

The Lord bless and keep us;

The Lord make His Face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us;

The Lord lift up the light of His Countenance upon us, and give us peace now and evermore.—Amen.

During the proceedings the band of the 100th Regiment performed accompaniments to the various hymns in the programme.

The style of architecture in which this new church is being carried out is the pointed or Gothic, but in the plainest manner compatible with neatness. When fully completed it will consist of a nave 78 feet x 38 feet and chancel 37 feet x 25 feet (inside measurement). On the South side of the latter will be the vestry, and on the North a magnificent tower and spire rising to the height of 190 feet. The site of the edifice is at the corner of Daly and King

streets, where, there being a sloping of the ground, it will shew two stories on one side. The main entrance will be at the South-east by a neat porch. The masonry will be of the best Gloucester lime stone with no work whatever on the face, laid in random courses, the only dressing being for door and window jambs, buttress, weatherings, plinth, &c., but this is being done in a peculiarly rough manner, which, though costing little, is very effective and harmonizes well with the style. The roofs will be old fashioned open timber ones, the principals resting on neat stone corbals.

**NEW BRUNSWICK.**

**PRESENTATION.**—The Companions of New Brunswick Chapter of Freemasons, presented M. E. Past K. Robert Marshall, recently with a large, valuable and beautiful Mirror, as a token of appreciation of services rendered the Chapter in the positions, respectively, of K. and Registrar, and of their esteem for him as a good man and a worthy mason. The presentation was made at the residence of Comp. Marshall. An address, expressive of the feelings of the donors, was read on the occasion by the Registrar of the Chapter, to which a suitable reply was made. Subsequently the Companions were entertained at a sumptuous Supper provided by M. E. Comp. Marshall and his lady. The occasion was marked by conviviality and enjoyment. Speeches were made by many of the parties present in response to the numerous toasts offered, all tending to stimulate the kindly feeling which it is desirable at all times should exist among members of this time-honored institution.—Songs, too, appropriate to the occasion were called into requisition. A neat plate at the bottom of the Mirror, which, by the way was got up at the establishment of Mr. C. Potter, bears the following inscription:—"Presented to Companion Past K. ROBERT MARSHALL, by New Brunswick Royal Arch Chapter, as a mark of respect and esteem. A. I. 2396. A. D. 1866."

**CANADIAN MASONIC ITEMS.**

☞ We learn with pleasure that an effort is being made to open an Encampment at the Town of Stanstead, C. E., and we doubt not that a favorable response will be made to this application of the Sir Knights of that place. We hope to be enabled to give a more extended notice in our next.

☞ A new edition of the book of Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Canada, is now ready, and can be obtained on application to R. W. Bro. T. B. Harris, Grand Secretary, Hamilton.

**PRICE.**

	c.
Small size.....	25 each.
Large size.....	50 "

☞ A number of the inhabitants of the village of Belmont, met in the Masonic Hall on the evening of the 22nd April, to witness a presentation to the members of the Masonic Lodge in that place, the Master of the Lodge and a number of the members being present. Miss Lucy J. Westlake, of London, presented them with a very beautiful Bible. Before handing it to the Master, she made some pointed and appropriate remarks, expressing her wishes for the prosperity of the lodge, trusting that the precious

truths contained in that sacred volume might ever be the actuating principles and rule of action which should guide its members in their sphere of duty. The Master, E. Mackey, in tendering the thanks of the lodge, said that such a gift from this source was quite unexpected as it would be more in accordance with justice for them to make a present to their friend and brother, Westlake, than to receive one from him, for no person but the members of the lodge knew his munificence to them; and the fact that he authorized his little daughter to present to them this handsome gift, was only an additional one among the many kindnesses which show his attachment to, and zeal in the cause of Freemasonry. Several of the spectators were then called upon to address the gathering, who all expressed their approbation of what they had seen and heard, and many were more favorably impressed with the Order than they were before going there.

☞ At the regular convocation of Hiram Chapter, No. 2, Hamilton, held in the Masonic Hall, on Monday evening, the 4th inst., the very beautiful and impressive degree of the Holy Royal Arch, was conferred upon three candidates, by V. E. Companion W. W. Pringle, Z., assisted by E. Companions, D. Gillies, H., and J. C. Bruce, J., in the presence of a large assembly of companions of the order.

☞ On Thursday evening the 2nd inst., the Brethren of Alma Lodge, No. 72, met at their lodge room in Galt, and presented W. Bro. R. F. Nelles with a very handsome gold Past Master's Jewel, accompanying the presentation with an address, which was read by W. Bro. T. S. Fisher, W. M., to which Bro. Nelles replied in appropriate terms. The occasion of the presentation was the removal of Bro. Nelles from Galt, where he has resided for the last twelve years. The jewel bears the following inscription on the back,

"Presented to W. Bro. P. M. R. F. Nelles, by the Brethren of Alma Lodge, No. 72, G. R. C., as a mark of their esteem."

"GALT, C. W., April, 1867."

After the presentation a complimentary supper was given at Bernhardt's Hotel, and a goodly company sat down. W. M. Fisher occupied the chair, and the Wardens, Bros. Patterson and Guggisberg, the vice-chairs. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and responded to, and song and sentiment wiled away the evening. Bro. Nelles received many flattering encomiums, and the brotherly feeling evinced towards him shows the high esteem in which he is held by his brethren of the Masonic fraternity in Galt.

☞ On Tuesday evening, the 16th April, the members of St. Mark's Lodge, Drummondville, presided over by W. Bro. Evans, W. M., met for the first time in their handsome and spacious new Hall, in that village, over Woodruff's store. Besides the members, who were out in strong force, quite a number of American brethren from Niagara Falls, Lockport and Buffalo Lodges, and several visitors from St. Catharines and surrounding country, were also present, thus rendering the meeting one of more than ordinary interest. The R. W. D. D. G. M. likewise attended by invitation, with his Secretary, W. Bro. O. P. Camp, both of whom congratulated the Lodge on its prosperous condition, as evinced by the quality and quantity of work being done, as



well as its healthy financial state, through which it has been enabled to furnish and decorate the new Hall in a very chaste and beautiful manner. At the close of the business, the brethren retired to a large banqueting room adjoining Kick's Hotel, where an excellent supper, with plenty of tea and coffee, was in waiting, to which it is needless to state ample justice was done. Appropriate speeches and songs followed from several brethren, and at 11.30 p. m. all retired for their homes, well pleased with participating in the ceremonies and conviviality of the evening. On the Monday evening previous the D. D. G. M. visited Merritt Lodge, at Welland, which is also in a thriving condition and steadily pursuing the even tenor of its way to perfection.

☞ The Provincial Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England, in and for the city and district of Quebec, and Three Rivers and Dependencies, by command of the R. W. the Provincial Grand Master, Brother James Dean, assembled at the Masonic Chambers, St. Lewis street, Quebec, at eight o'clock on Monday evening, the 6th inst., when the following officers were installed for the ensuing year:—

R. W. Bro.	James Dean, District Grand Master.
" "	Joseph White, Deputy District Grand Master.
" "	P. Belanger, Senior Grand Warden.
" "	H. P. Leggatt, Junior Grand Warden.
V. " "	W. A. Adamson, Grand Chaplain.
" "	Westou Hunt, Grand Treasurer.
" "	George Veasey, Grand Registrar.
" "	Alexander Frew, Grand Secretary.
" "	John Shaw, Assistant Grand Secretary.
" "	C. E. Montizambert, Senior Grand Deacon.
" "	John Dawe, Junior Grand Deacon.
" "	Chris. Stavely, Grand Superintendent of Works.
" "	C. H. E. Tilstone, Grand Director of Ceremonies.
" "	Chs. Hamilton, Grand Sword Bearer.
" "	W. M. McLaren, Grand Organist.
" "	Charles McKenzie, Grand Pursuivant.
" "	Wm. Crawford, Grand Standard Bearer.
" "	H. Beer, Grand Tyler.

#### GRAND STEWARDS.

Bro. B. Jacobs	Albion, 17, E. R.
" J. Alexander	do.
" Wm. J. Brady	St. John, 127, E. R.
" Thomas McGinnis	do.
" C. R. Coker	Alma, 648, E. R.
" Dr. Hunt	do.

#### COMMITTEE OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

W. Bro. George Thompson and W. Miller, and D. D. G. M., S. and J. G. W., Registrar and Secretary.

### MONTHLY RECORD OF CURRENT EVENTS.

- Imprisonment for debt has been abolished in France.
- The Fenian prisoners Burke, Doran and McCafferty, have been convicted of high treason, and sentenced to be hanged.
- It is reported at Berlin that the Danish Government has announced its intention to remain neutral in case of war between France and Prussia.
- The Grand Trunk Company have erected sheds at the Lachine Junction and tanneries, for immigrants, with the means of washing and personal cleanliness.
- Mr. Gladstone has resigned the leadership of the Liberal party in the House of Commons, in consequence of divisions on the subject of the Government Reform Bill.
- The Intercolonial Railway Guarantee Bill has passed the Imperial Parliament. There was some show of opposition to it, and of course some ill-natured remarks were made by some of the anti-colonial men.

—The Grand Jury in the case of ex-Governor Eyre, of Jamaica, has ignored the indictment framed against that officer, growing out of his official conduct during the revolt in that island.

—At various ports of entry doubts having arisen as to the proper rate of duty to be levied on Bay Rum and Florida Water; it has been decided by the Customs Department at \$1.20 per gallon.

—Sir. S. H. Walpole, has resigned his seat in the English Cabinet as Home Secretary, and the Hon. G. Hardy has assumed the position. The Earl of Devonshire replaces Mr. Hardy as chairman of the Poor Law Board.

—The National Constitution which has been so long under debate in the Prussian Chambers, has at length been adopted. The Polish members protest against the action of the Parliament, and the result being made known, unanimously resigned.

—The *Minerva* states that the delegates of the Provinces recently in London are to form the future Privy Council of the Confederation, and they have already come to an understanding among themselves upon many points of organization and patronage.

—The protracted investigation into the conduct of Admiral Persano, who commanded the Italian fleet in the battle of Lissa, has been concluded in accordance with the verdict of the court. He has been sentenced to be cashiered for incapacity and disobedience.

—Her Majesty's portrait, which was presented to Mr. Peabody, is on exhibition in New York, and is spoken of as a beautiful work of art and an excellent likeness. It is said to have cost £15,000 sterling. We are glad to hear that it is Mr. Peabody's intention to exhibit it publicly in Canada.

—The Prussian Diet was opened on the 29th April by the King in person. In the speech from the throne King William said, the unity of Germany was an assurance of peace to Europe, and urged the speedy adoption of the Constitution. The King was silent in regard to the Luxemburg question.

—The Provincial delegates to England on the subject of Confederation have all returned except Mr. Cartier. The Queen's proclamation is expected to issue during this month, the new Cabinet to be formed early in July, when the writs will be issued, and the elections will probably take place in August.

—The Customs Department has decided that mill and factory machinery should be admitted free only when forming part of a mill or factory as fixtures, and when of complicated workmanship. No such machinery as circular or upright saws, spindles, bobbins, &c., which are liable to fifteen per cent. duty. It is also decided that iron chain cables may be imported, duty free when over a half inch in diameter; chains under half an inch with or without shackles, 15 per cent duty ad valorem.

—The tonnage duty of the Great Eastern on entering the port of New York amounted to \$6,045, which with the addition of the harbor masters, health officers and pilot fees, and charges on stamps, permits, &c., bring altogether only the expenses of entering the port to \$7000. She left on the 14th April for France, carrying 191 passengers, paying \$100 each, which amounts \$19,100, leaving a surplus of \$12,000, out of which the expenses of her voyage and the salaries of her officers, crew and attendants, cost of painting and repairing, and other incidental items are to be liquidated. It is estimated the deficiency on this trip will amount to from \$80,000 to \$100,000.

—A conference of the European Powers for the settlement of the disputes which have arisen between France and Prussia, in regard to the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, met in London on the 7th inst. At a second session held on May 9th, the following basis for the deliberations of the Conference was agreed upon:—

*First*—The territory of Luxemburg is to remain in the possession of the King of Holland as Grand Duke of Luxemburg.

*Second*—The neutralization of the Grand Duchy is to be guaranteed by all the European Powers participating in the Conference.

*Third*—The fortress of Luxemburg, is to be razed. Earl Derby stated in his place in Parliament on the evening of the 9th, that he considered the preservation of the peace of Europe no longer a question of doubt.

#### "THE CRAFTSMAN,"

And British American Masonic Record,

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