

[From the Saint John Courier, June 26.]

We have occupied a large portion of our columns to-day with an account of the proceedings at the laying of the Corner Stone of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, in the vicinity of this City, on Thursday last. The weather for some days previous had been extremely wet and foggy, but on the morning of that day the sun dispelled the dense mist, and continuing to shine with splendour, brought gladness to many an anxious breast. The site of the intended Building being on the western side of the Harbour, about a mile and a half from the Landing in Carleton, the two Corporation Steam Ferry Boats were in constant requisition during the day in conveying those who joined in the procession and the many spectators, to and from either side, and so admirable were the arrangements, that not a single accident occurred. It is estimated that not less than ten thousand persons turned out to witness the novel and imposing ceremony. The hills in the neighbourhood being covered with groups of spectators, many of whom were of the fair sex, and all dressed in holiday attire, presented a gay and pleasant scene; which, we understand, was highly pleasing to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and particularly so to the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master, who, with the true philanthropy of a Mason and a Christian, and the urbanity of a Gentleman, readily responded to the invitation of the Worshipful Master and Brethren of Albion Lodge, to take part in the interesting ceremony, and undertook the journey from Halifax for that purpose, sparing neither pains nor expense to gratify the wishes of the Masonic Brethren.

GRAND MASONIC PROCESSION

AT THE LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE OF THE
Provincial Lunatic Asylum.

The Hon. Alexander KEITH, of Halifax, who has recently been appointed Provincial Grand Master for New Brunswick, having arrived in this City, a Provincial Grand Lodge was holden in the Lodge Room of the St. John Hotel, on Thursday, the 24th inst., at 12 o'clock, being Saint John's Day, for the transaction of Masonic business, and for the purpose of forming a Procession to assist His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in laying the Corner Stone of the New Provincial Lunatic Asylum, about to be erected in the vicinity of Saint John.

The different Lodges being in attendance, the Provincial Grand Master was announced, and took his seat on the Throne with the usual honors. The Grand Lodge was then opened in due form, and with solemn prayer.

The Patent from the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, Most Worshipful Grand Master of England, appointing the Hon. Alexander Keith, a Member of Her Majesty's Legislative Council of Nova Scotia, and Provincial Grand Master for Nova Scotia, to be Provincial Grand Master for New Brunswick and the Islands of Newfoundland and Prince Edward, having been read by the Grand Secretary, he was proclaimed and saluted according to ancient custom.

The Provincial Grand Master then addressed the Brethren in the following terms:—

"BRETHREN,—Ever since the Most Worshipful Grand Master of England thought fit to place the Craft in this sister Province under my Masonical jurisdiction, I have had it in contemplation to visit you. I have heard a high character of the Brethren,—that Masonry in all its purity and integrity was flourishing amongst you; and, anxious to become personally acquainted with the Freemasons of New Brunswick, I have embraced the earliest available opportunity of presenting myself to you, as your Provincial Grand Master.

"Amongst the circumstances which have induced me to call you together this day, there are some which render this, the first meeting over which I have had the pleasure to preside as your Provincial Grand Master, peculiarly gratifying, and which invest it with a degree of more than ordinary interest. We meet, to celebrate as Masons usually do, the anniversary of Saint John the Baptist, who, as tradition informs us, was an eminent Christian Patron of our Order;—and here, let us hope that the observance of this ancient custom, commemorative only of the Great—the Wise—the Virtuous and the Good, may have the beneficial effect of stimulating us in the performance of Virtuous Actions, that our names may live "when the dust shall have returned to the earth as it was, and the spirit returned unto God who gave it."

"We are also assembled to assist the Representative of our gracious and beloved Sovereign, in laying, with the Ceremonies of our Order, the Corner Stone of a Lunatic Asylum, about to be erected in the vicinity of this prosperous and loyal City—an occasion well calculated to awaken, even in the most thoughtless, the better feelings and sympathies of our nature;—but in Freemasons, the deepest sense of their obligations; indeed, one of the characteristics of our Craft is, that it stands in such high and bold relief, as to deter many a sensitive mind from entering into its service,—and why? Because its obligations concern, almost exclusively, the distressed;—still, a satisfaction arises from the due discharge of our Masonic duties, for we may look back upon the reward of the good Samaritan—verily a rich reward—the blessings of the poor—the helpless—the insane in body and in mind.

"To aid in any undertaking, intended to provide a home for the houseless—a guardian or friend for the friendless, or for those who

may not be safely trusted to take care of themselves, is truly a Masonic duty;—and I trust that every Brother will consider himself bound to afford that assistance, which has been required of us as Masons, by the Commissioners appointed to superintend the erection of the Asylum, on the present highly interesting occasion.

"It was my intention to have appointed a Deputy Grand Master in this Province, and to have installed him at once, with the customary Ceremonies. The business before us, however, obliges me to postpone the performance of this pleasing duty to another day. In the meanwhile, I beg to assure you, that no endeavours shall be wanting on my part to advance the prosperity and well being of the Craft, and more particularly of that portion of it over which I have the honor and pleasure to preside. In these endeavours, I crave and confidently expect your cordial united support and assistance, without which I feel that any exertions of mine must be comparatively unavailing.

"I thank you, Brethren, for your attendance, and for the kind and flattering reception you have given me, on this my first official visit to your shores.—I am also much indebted to the Worshipful Master and Members of the Hibernia Lodge, on the Registry of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ireland, for the assistance they are about to afford us in this our present undertaking,—and may the Building, the Corner Stone of which we are this day to assist in laying, be hallowed with the Divine Blessing.—May the humane and benevolent intention of its founders be fully realized; and may it be supplied by Man with all that is needful and good for its temporal support."

SO MOTE IT BE!

The Lodges then proceeded to King's Square, where they were joined by the Civic Authorities, when a Procession was formed in the following order:—

N. B. Regiment of Artillery, commanded by Major Nicholson.

Two Tylers, with drawn Swords.

Midian Lodge, Kingston, No. 770.

Union Lodge, Carleton, No. 767.

Hibernian Lodge, (Registry of Ireland.)

Band, (City Amateur.)

Saint John's Lodge, No. 632.

Albion Lodge, No. 570.

Royal Arch Masons, (three and three.)

Worshipful Master of Albion Lodge.

Commissioners for Building the Asylum.

City Marshall.

High Sheriff and Coroner.

Mayor and Recorder.

Common Clerk and Chamberlain.

Aldermen, (two and two.)

Assistant Aldermen, two and two.)

Magistrates, (two and two.)

Prov. Treasurer, Col. H. M. Customs, and Post Master General.

Members of Assembly, (two and two.)

Members of H. M. Council, (two and two.)

Band of the Queen's New Brunswick Rangers.

Architect, (with Plans.)

Steward with { CORN, WINE, and OIL, } Steward with

White Rod. } Borne by three Past Masters. } White Rod

Grand Secretary, (with Book of Constitutions.)

Grand Treasurer, (with Bag.)

Grand Superintendent of Works.

Corinthian Light, (borne by a Past Master.)

Column of the Junior Grand Warden, (borne by a Past Master.)

Junior Grand Warden, with Plumb and Rule.

Steward with { BANNER OF THE } Steward with

White Rod. } GRAND LODGE. } White Rod.

The Doric Light, (borne by a Past Master.)

Column of the Senior Grand Warden, (borne by a Past Master.)

Senior Grand Warden, (with Level.)

HOLY BIBLE.

On a Cushion, (borne by a Past Master.)

Grand Chaplain.—Grand Orator.

Past Deputy Grand Master.

Deputy Grand Master, (with Square.)

Ionic Light, (borne by a Past Master.)

Grand Sword Bearer.

The Staff of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor.

His Excellency the LIEUT. GOVERNOR.

The R. W. the PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

Stewards with Rods.

Grand Deacons with Rods.

Grand Tyler.

The Procession having reached the site of the intended building, beautifully situated on Carleton Heights, in the Parish of Lancaster, was halted, opened right and left to allow the Lieutenant Governor and the Provincial Grand Master to pass to the platform erected for the purpose, where, having taken their appointed places, (the Provincial Grand Master, with His Excellency on his right,) a Royal Salute was fired by the New Brunswick Artillery, the Band playing the National Anthem.

"The ceremony of laying the Corner Stone commenced with a Prayer from the Grand Chaplain, (the Rev. Dr. GRAY,) of which the following is a copy:—