

"Almighty and Eternal God, Maker and preserver of unnumbered worlds, we humbly acknowledge our entire dependence upon Thee for life, for breath, and for all things. We know, O Lord, that without Thy inspiration and aid, all human wisdom is folly, all human strength weakness. In Thy name we assemble and meet together; we entreat Thee from Thy holy habitation;—from realms of light and glory to look down upon us and vouchsafe Thy presence and blessing, that we may know and serve Thee aright, and that all our doings may tend to Thy glory, and to the Salvation of our souls. Grant that as this work is begun, so it may be continued and ended in Thee. Grant that the sacred Art, which from the beginning has been especially employed in rearing Temples to Thy Holy Name, may now be blessed in this erection for the good of man, and the benefit of human Society. Let Thy Providential protection, we beseech Thee, be over those who shall be more immediately engaged in carrying on this work, and shield them from danger and accident during its progress. In Faith and Hope, O Heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and our undertaking to Thy favour and protection, 'prosper thou the work of our hands, O prosper thou our handy work.' Hear, we beseech Thee, our humble petitions; for the sake of that Eternal word, which was from the beginning, and shall be when time has ceased to roll,—even Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour."—Amen!

The following Inscription on the Plate was read by the Grand Secretary:—

THIS STONE,

The Corner Stone of a Building to be erected at the Public expense for a

PROVINCIAL LUNATIC ASYLUM,

was, on the twenty fourth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty seven, in the eleventh year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, QUEEN, and in the seventh year of the Administration of His Excellency

Sir William Macbean George Colebrooke, K. H.

Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of New Brunswick, laid with due solemnity by His Excellency, assisted by the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master, the Honorable ALEXANDER KEITH, and the Albion and other Masonic Lodges.

COMMISSIONERS:

George P. Peters, Esquire, M. D.

William Jack, Esquire,

John Ward, Esquire,

John R. Partelow, Esquire, M. P. P.,

Mayor of the City of Saint John.

Architect—Matthew Stead. Builder—Otis Small.

J. H. Venning, Sculpt.

The Inscription, several Coins and Newspapers of the day, together with the New Brunswick Almanack for 1847, were deposited in the Stone, by the Provincial Grand Master.

The Chairman of the Commissioners for erecting the Building, (GEORGE P. PETERS, Esq., M. D.) presented to the Provincial Grand Master a Silver Trowel, bearing the following Inscription:—

"Presented by the Commissioners for building the Provincial Lunatic Asylum to the Right Worshipful and Honorable ALEXANDER KEITH, Provincial Grand Master, on the occasion of the laying the Foundation Stone of that Institution on the 24th June, (being Saint John's Day,) A. D. 1847, and A. L. 5847."

The Trowel was presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, who spread the cement on the Stone. The Stone was then lowered slowly, the Band playing solemn music.

The Plumb, Level and Square were then severally delivered by the Provincial Grand Master to the Lieutenant Governor, who tried the Stone, and pronounced it just.

The Mallet was in like manner presented to His Excellency, who gave the Stone three knocks, and said—

"May the Grand Architect of the Universe grant a blessing on the foundation which we have just laid, and by His Providence enable us to finish this and every other work which may be undertaken for the advantage and benefit of this Province."

After which, the Brethren gave the Grand Public Honors, and a Salute was fired by the New Brunswick Artillery.

The Corn, Wine and Oil were severally presented by the Provincial Grand Master to the Lieutenant Governor, who, pouring them on the Stone, made the following Invocation:—

"May the all bounteous Author of Nature bless this Province with abundance of corn, wine and oil, and with all the necessities and comforts of life, and may the same Almighty power preserve the City from fire, ruin, and decay, to the latest posterity."

The Plans were then delivered by the Architect to the Provincial Grand Master, who submitted them to His Excellency, by whom they were examined and approved, and His Excellency delivered the following Address:—

"Having for several years watched the progress of the very creditable Establishment which has been formed in your City for the reception and treatment of those who are suffering the severest of

all deprivations in the loss of reason, it has been most gratifying to me to observe the unceasing confidence of the public in its management, and their just appreciation of a class of institutions, which have added another to the many triumphs of professional skill and of Christian philanthropy.

"There are doubtless some who will recollect the time when those who are now the objects of such judicious care, were too often left unaided in their helplessness, or subjected to harsh treatment, until their malady became confirmed and incurable. The mental sufferings which, in their lucid moments they must have endured, may well be imagined, and we hence may learn to appreciate the extent of our obligations to the enlightened and benevolent persons who have made the treatment of mental disorders their study, who have ascertained that, like those of the body, they are susceptible of cure, and that in recent cases, the influence of patience and gentleness, combined with tranquilizing pursuits and associations, will rarely fail to restore self-possession to those who would previously have been consigned to hopeless suffering and despair.

"The truth, indeed, cannot be too widely disseminated that cases of mental alienation, if promptly dealt with, are generally found to yield to this treatment—that even the most aggravated will admit of some alleviation, and that these which are apparently the most intractable, are sometimes found to yield the most readily to such genial restoratives.

"From the tenor of these observations, you will comprehend the satisfaction with which I have undertaken, at your request, to lay the foundation stone of an Asylum endowed by the Provincial Legislature, and destined, as I hope, to afford suitable and ample accommodation for the inmates of the present establishment, and for others who may be similarly afflicted.

"In reflecting on the resources which have been made available in other institutions of the kind, there is one which, if it had not occurred to yourselves, I would have suggested as appropriate to your own.

"In the intervals of consciousness, and especially in the convalescent stages of mental disorder, the deprivation of religious consolation has at times been sensibly felt by the patients, and where arrangements have been made for including in the Asylum a Chapel for the use of those who are able to take part in its services, it has been found to conduce to their comfort, and also to aid their recovery.

"Confiding in the disposition of those who originated and have promoted this laudable undertaking, that they will render it an Institution creditable to the Province and themselves, I feel convinced that they will require no higher incentive to their exertions than the consciousness that they are contributing to alleviate the sufferings of the afflicted and to restore them to the enjoyment of existence."

The Rev. Dr. ALLEY, (Grand Orator,) then delivered the following appropriate and impressive Oration:—

"Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Grand Wardens and Brethren:

"In consequence of the flattering appointment with which I have been honoured by the Right Worshipful the P. Grand Master, I now rise to deliver the Masonic Oration usual on occasions like the present, and although distrustful in mine own abilities, to discharge the duty, in a manner by any means comparable with the addresses of brethren, possessed of talents and knowledge, far superior to mine own, I nevertheless proceed to address you on the present occasion, trusting in your kind indulgence, and hoping that a sincere desire to promote the prosperity and utility of the Craft, will atone for errors in my present attempt. Your candour I am in no doubt of, and the censure of the prejudiced I fear not,—I therefore shall proceed to the subject of this address, and shall endeavour to unfold the principles of Free-Masonry, and while I prove that those principles which form the ground work of the order, tend to the good of society, and are in their nature most salutary, I shall demonstrate the utility of its moral code, and before concluding, shall answer the principal popular objections advanced against us.

"But, before I proceed to the discussion of those subjects, I must touch upon the occasion of our present meeting, an occasion equally interesting to every beholder, and in perfect unison with one of the leading principles of Free-Masonry, whose charity, it is well known, cheers the abode of penury and gladdens the heart of destitution and affliction.—And, what affliction, I will ask, can equal that of the beings for whose benefit the present work is undertaken? Beings visited, for his own wise and inscrutable reasons, by the hand of God—and deprived of the use of that reason which is a gift intended for the comfort and guidance of man. What affliction can there be which calls more loudly for public sympathy than that of the unfortunate lunatic.—Behold, the poor maniac in his solitary cell, without the power of self guidance, lost to society, and more than a wreck of his former self, and what heart will not be warmly interested in the heavenly cause of alleviating his wretchedness, and being, under God, the probable instrument of restoring a mind now lost to all reflection on things either temporal or eternal, of awakening that reason of which he is now deprived, and restoring him to the power of serving his God, of thinking on a judgment to come, of blessing his family, and of resuming his station and usefulness in society. It is not Masons alone who are called upon to assist in this work. It is man in general—man not created for self alone, but for his fellow man also—and, who never can answer the purposes of his creation by shutting himself up within himself, but on the contrary, by