

“HOW A FOREST BECAME A CITY.”

Do not, we beg you, judge this, Our Masque, by too high a standard. Remember, we beseech you, that it hath been hastily contrived and under difficulties, and that we are but amateurs in such things.

We do not want you to visit upon us the displeasure which follows disappointment, SO DO NOT EXPECT TOO MUCH.

We do not present a play, but a MASQUE—in this case, we fear, a thing of shreds and patches.

And yet we hope OUR MASQUE will please.

We have endeavored to so contrive it that it may include stray and latent talent, also known and recognized talent. This talent, all so generously given, has been blended with what harmony ingenuity could devise. Something of Art and Allegory, all designed to “give delight and hurt not”—nay, rather to help love of this fair city and to help those who “go down to the sea in ships.” Ye, who enjoy the fruit of their labor, think kindly of them and smile on our poor efforts for “a good cause.” And so we crave your mercy.

THE AUTHORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

SOME FOREWORDS, IN THE NATURE OF AN EPISTLE DEDICATORY TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF VANCOUVER, MR. L. D. TAYLOR.

We who here address you, having devised, contrived, invented and arranged this Masque, desire to thank you for having given it the favor of your countenance. We are glad that you give our Masque your patronage and attend the performance, thereby setting an example to the citizens of this favored City of Vancouver. We thank all patrons for the support given to a Good Cause. Your presence cheers us, your applause will encourage and reward the players.

In other days and in other cities, Masques have been presented. We cannot pretend that this Our Masque will compare with these—nor such comparison be made. This Our Masque, tho it fail to reach a high standard of Art, yet hath reasons for indulgent criticism. Underlying its production is the desire to stimulate and help the progress of this fair city. Another motive is to aid a Deserving Institution, which bears the honoured name Strathcona. The merit of this Institution is proved by the fact that you and other leading citizens commend it.

So, in all humility, and with abundant hope, we place Our Masque before you:

“FELIX PENNE;”

For Himself and Faithful Fellow-Workers.

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