

P. Grand Lodge, held on the 23rd of October, was declared illegal, and all Masonic intercourse was by an unanimous vote strictly forbidden. Thus matters remained until the meeting of the P. Grand Lodge on the 21st instant, when further information was received from Br. Townsend, to the effect that he had succeeded in bringing up the subject of our complaints before the Grand Lodge of England, and that the Craft throughout England were fairly aroused to our position, and fully alive to the justness of our demands, as will be seen by the following notice of motion to be made at the next Quarterly Meeting of the Grand Lodge of England, to be held on the first Wednesday in June:—

"That, in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, it is expedient that the Prov. G. L. of Canada West should enjoy all the immunities and privileges of an Independent Grand Lodge, save and except, that it shall once in every three years submit the names of two or more Brethren to the M. W. the G. M. of England, who shall appoint one of them to be Prov. G. M.; and the Prov. G. M. so appointed shall exercise the same powers within his Province, as are exercised by the M. W. the G. M. in England. That it is further expedient that the same privileges be accorded to other Foreign Prov. Grand Lodges on their Petition; and the M. W. the G. M. is hereby respectfully requested to carry this resolution into effect at as early a period as possible;" and also, "That the thanks of this G. L. are due, and are hereby given, to those Canadian Lodges which have maintained their allegiance to the M. W. the G. M. and the G. L. of England."

"From the above statement it will be evident that the disaffected portion of the Masonic Fraternity in this Province is comparatively small, although nearly the entire Craft agree in the belief that an independent organization is essential to the proper and effectual working of the Craft in this Province; yet this Grand Lodge is fully determined to obtain this position in a legitimate manner, and not by violence, as in the case the Canada Grand Lodge, whose existence as a Masonic Body this Grand Lodge entirely repudiates.

"TORONTO, May 8, 1856.

F—Extract from Published Minutes of Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge of England, 4th June, 1856.

"The M. W. Grand Master said he had a communication to make to the Grand Lodge which he feared would occupy some time; but he trusted they would lend him their attention, and he would be as brief as possible. Among other business for the evening he saw a Notice of Motion by Brother Portal for granting privileges to the Grand Lodge of Canada West; as he imagined that Motion must be founded upon a Petition which had been presented to the Grand Master from Canada West, although he was not aware of the nature of the Motion about to be brought forward, he thought it probable it might be intended to grant a great part of the prayer of that Petition. It perhaps might not be right to anticipate what the Motion was, but he could conceive it to be a Motion which he should be compelled to refuse putting from the Chair. For this reason he wished to explain to the Grand Lodge the nature of the Petition which had reached him, the view he had taken of that Petition, and the course he meant to pursue relative to it. A Petition had been sent to the Grand Master, and which he now held in his hand, and he would beg them to observe that that Petition was addressed, not to the Grand Lodge, but to the Grand Master; he, therefore conceived it to be a Petition with which the Grand Lodge had nothing to do, nor did he think it necessary to read the prayer; he should however, read a part of it, and a part of it only, in order to explain the view he took of the subject. It was this:—Your Petitioners submit that the Constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of England, so far as they relate to the District Grand Lodges in Colonies, should be altered so as to allow the Lodges in Canada West,

in Provincial Grand Lodge assembled, annually to elect their Provincial Grand Master to control the working and operations of the Craft, and through their Provincial Grand Master to grant not only Warrants to Private Lodges, but if necessary, to form County or Provincial Grand Lodges in this Province; the United Grand Lodge of England still retaining and exercising a superior and governing power and jurisdiction over the Craft in this Province." What that governing power and jurisdiction would be, should the former part of the prayer of the Petition be granted, he was at a loss to imagine. This Petition was sent by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, not by the Provincial Grand Master of Canada—pretty plain evidence that the Provincial Grand Master wholly disapproved of it. He conceived that the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, had no right to petition the Grand Master, or to call the Lodge he held for such a purpose a Provincial Grand Lodge; the proper source was the Provincial Grand Master, and he felt that he, (the Earl of Zetland), as Grand Master of England, was perfectly justified in ignoring that Petition. They asked that the Constitutions of the Grand Lodge should be altered so as to permit the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West to elect their Grand Master. Did they think that the Grand Master of England would propose such a measure to the Grand Lodge, so to alter the Constitution of Free Masonry? He was not surprised that the Provincial Grand Master would have nothing to do with it. It was so preposterous that he did not feel he could send an answer that could be respectful to that body, even if he could have regarded it as emanative from the Grand Lodge of Canada. He, therefore, had not sent any answer to that Petition. He would not be the person to come down to the Grand Lodge to ask them to alter the Constitutions of Free Masonry in this County, or to pass a law which should derogate from the prerogative of the Grand Master, or the dignity of the Grand Lodge. He did not act from any pride or feeling of his own; but he considered he was bound, by his obligation as Grand Master, to hand down the Office he held to his successor without any detraction from the prerogative of the Office, and it was his firm determination so to do; and if the Grand Lodge should differ from him on that point, he should leave that Chair to his successor unimpaired and unfettered. He was informed that long before this Petition, which was dated the 22nd September, 1853, was sent, a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West had been held, namely, in October, 1852, at which a Resolution was passed that it was deemed necessary to form an independent Grand Lodge in Canada West. Now the Petition that was sent eleven months afterwards did not hint at the Resolution which had been come to before, so that they would be led by this Petition to believe that that was the first attempt to moot the question, but so long before, October, 1852, such a Resolution had been passed. However, the Report alluded to was correct, for there was a Petition now before the Grand Lodge which mentioned the very Resolution which had been passed in October, 1852. He had that Petition now before him, and he must make a few remarks upon it, [the Grand Master then read from the Petition.] He begged leave to say that the other Petition had not been addressed to the Grand Lodge of England but to the Grand Master. He should like to know how this body of Delegates had been appointed, how they were chosen, and how they could bind the Lodges, if a majority of the Lodges do not concur; according to their own showing this body of Masons formed themselves into a body of Delegates, chosen it did not say by whom, and passed a Resolution forming themselves into an independent Grand Lodge. It might fairly be presumed that the Lodges were not unanimous. He had reason to know that they were not. If they were not unanimous, then the remaining members of the Lodges had a right to the Warrants of their Lodges. But supposing the Members of any of the Lodges were unanimous, what would then be the consequence if they withdrew their allegiance from the parent body, why, that the Warrant must be returned to the Grand

Lodge of England. An assembly of individual Members could not form an independent Grand Lodge, that was perfectly clear. The Petition stated that no reply to another Petition had been received. The only one that had reached the Grand Secretary was one with which the Grand Secretary had nothing to do. If it should be proposed by the worthy Brother that all the demands of the Prayer of the Petition should be complied with, he, the Grand Master, must say, that he would not put such a Motion from the Chair, because he conceived that it could not come before the Grand Lodge. In the first instance it would be necessary to over-see and alter the laws and constitutions of the Grand Lodge of England; if those were altered, then it might be possible to entertain such a Motion. He was anxious that the Grand Lodge should be informed as to his opinion and the steps he intended to take.

"Bro. PORTAL wished to understand whether the Grand Master would refuse to put his Motion, the terms of which, he was informed by the Grand Secretary, had been communicated to his Lordship.

"The GRAND MASTER having read the Motion a loud, stated that he had no hesitation in saying that he would not put that Motion from the Chair.

"Bro. PORTAL thought it would have been more courteous if the Grand Master had informed him of his intention earlier.

"The GRAND MASTER observed that he had not considered himself at all bound to state to Bro. Portal what course he should take, nor till very lately had he made up his mind what course he should pursue; very important information had lately come to his knowledge, and he did not consider the Grand Master in any way bound to any Brother who thought proper to give Notice of Motion without consulting him to give any intimation of his opinion thereon. The proper place to give his decision was from his place in the Chair. Within the last few days a communication had reached him which he would read; it was from the Provincial Grand Master of Montreal, dated the 18th May, 1856, [the Grand Master read the communication, which referred to a previous one in November. If a communication had been made in November last it had been mislaid, and had never come to his knowledge; a duplicate of that letter had, however, since been received, [letter, dated 12th November, 1855, was then read]. Now he thought that was a confirmation, if any had been wanting, of the reports which had previously reached him, of the difference of opinion existing in Canada, and of the large number of Masons who desired to adhere to the Grand Lodge of England in contradistinction to the rebellious brethren [hear], he would repeat the term rebellious brethren, who would throw off their allegiance from the Grand Lodge of England and form themselves without authority into an independent body. If they wished not to be rebellious let them return their Warrants, but whilst they acted, and worked, and initiated Masons under the Warrant of the Grand Lodge of England, was it not rebellion to say they throw off their allegiance to the parent Lodge. He wished to do every justice to the Canadian Lodges, and that their claims, as well as those of all Colonial Lodges, should be fairly and fully considered, but it was not his intention to be coerced by a section of Canadian Brethren into taking a hasty or ill-advised course. He was fully determined to take their grievances into consideration, and in order to do that, he should call in the advice of some of his Brethren. He would take this opportunity of stating that a Petition had been brought to him that morning from New South Wales, by the Deputy Provincial G. Master, with whom he had had a long interview, and fully explained to him his view of the state of the Lodges in Australia, and he believed the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, had left him perfectly satisfied. The Provincial Grand Lodges of Australia, Canada, and the Colonies should have his best consideration, and he trusted to be able before a very long period,