

The Convention resumed its sitting at half-past seven P. M., V. W. Bro. C. Magill, presiding.

The Committee appointed to prepare resolutions for the adoption of the Convention, submitted the following preamble :

Whereas, the existence of Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons in this Province, hailing from three several Grand Lodges, is a system productive of much evil to the Craft, creating a diversity of interests and allegiance,—an absence of harmony in action and working, perpetuating local and national feelings, and thus estranging the affections of brethren, whose Order knows no country and is confined to no race; and,

Whereas, the Benevolent funds of Canadian Freemasons, small as they are, are constantly taxed to relieve needy brethren from Europe, while our resources are doubly drawn upon by contributions to the Grand Lodges of England and Ireland, and to the Provincial Grand Lodges of Canada, thus creating a constant drain upon those funds, from which but little return can ever be expected; and,

Whereas, the distance between Canada and the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland presents a very serious difficulty in regard to the necessary correspondence, as well as the prompt receipt of Warrants and Certificates, which have been delayed for months, and in some cases for years, greatly to the inconvenience of the fraternity in Canada: and,

Whereas, important communications, and even remittances of money, have been suffered to lie for years in the Grand Secretary's office of England, without the least acknowledgment of their having been received in due course, brethren being compelled to leave the Province before they could receive from England the certificates for which they had long previously paid: and,

Whereas, the communications of the Provincial Grand Lodges of Canada to the Grand Lodge of England,—though respectfully and masonically expressed, especially when in the form of petitions or remonstrances, have been treated with silent contempt, their very receipt remaining unacknowledged: and,

Whereas, the Provincial Grand Masters of Canada and their Deputies are not appointed by, and are entirely irresponsible to the Freemasons of Canada, being the mere nominees of the Grand Lodges of Great Britain,—the members of which can know but little of the state of the Craft, or the masonic position of individuals in this Province: and,

Whereas, whilst the Provincial Grand Lodges are thus rendered irresponsible to and independent of the Craft in Canada, experience has shown that they are unable to secure from the parent Grand Lodges that attention and respect which are due to their position :