

*To all Whom it may Concern,*

GREETING:—

Whereas, it has been represented to me, that the Warrant granted by the Grand Lodge of Canada to the Victoria Lodge, No. 173, Montreal, is now, and has been for a period of more than one month, held and retained by a brother, who still declines to place it in possession of the loyal members of that Lodge, and whereas, it appears that W. Bro. Henry J. Gear, W. M., and Bro. J. T. McMinn, the Senior Warden, are not in accord with the membership of Victoria Lodge, twenty-seven of whom have declared their determination to remain true to their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Canada:

Therefore, I do, by these presents, authorize Bro. Robt. Murray, the Junior Warden to summon the meetings of the aforesaid Victoria Lodge, No. 173, G. R. C., until the next election and installation of officers, in the same manner as if the Worshipful Master and Senior Warden were both absent, and in case the Warrant should not be forthcoming or available at the next or subsequent meetings of the aforesaid Victoria Lodge, I further authorize the business of said Lodge to be transacted, and its work performed as heretofore, under the Warrant of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

This done at the office of the Grand Master, in the City of Montreal, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 6th day of December, 1869.

A. A. STEVENSON, Grand Master.

EARLY in January, I received the following communication from R. W. Bro. Walker, D.D.G.M., for the district of Quebec:

QUEBEC, 2nd January, 1870.

A. A. STEVENSON, Esq., G. M. G. L. of Canada.

Dear Sir and M. W. Brother—I greet you with the compliments of this festive season, and trust that you may live to enjoy many returns of its cheering association; and that at the next advent of "New Year's Day" you will find yourself free from the many harrassing cares and anxieties which beset you at the close of the year just past, and, I am afraid, beset you still.

In accordance with my promise, I now proceed to give you the details connected with the defalcation of Harington Lodge. It appears that at the meeting of Grand Lodge in Montreal, on the 1st December last, when the representative of the lodge, W. Bro. Burnstein, W. M., went forward to sign his name in the register, it was found that "No. 49 Harington Lodge" had been omitted altogether; and the Grand Registrar then asked W. Bro. Burnstein "if his lodge was still faithful to the Grand Lodge of Canada?" W. Bro. Burnstein's reply, as I have been informed, was "It is, as yet." After some further conversation at the Registrar's table, it was proposed to enter the lodge in the register at the end of the list. To this, W. Bro. McCallum, W. M., who was also present at the time, demurred: and at his suggestion, the "No" and "name" of the lodge were interlined at the proper place. The omission, and the question put to him—a question, he says, not put to any one but himself—seemed to have irritated W. Bro. Burnstein very much, it being, in his opinion, tantamount to a declaration that G. L. considered Harington Lodge as having gone over to the enemy; and on his return to Quebec, kept harping on this string continually and incessantly, and would not listen to any common-sense explanation, that the omission might merely have been a clerical error; while with regard to the question put to him, I myself considered it out of place. I may mention that W. Bro. Burnstein has all along been a sympathiser with the new movement; and dwelling upon what he termed an insult to the lodge, he soon gathered the malcontents around him; and these brethren, aided and abetted by W. Bro. Bowen, late of St. Andrew's Lodge, R.S., worked strenuously in the cause of rebellion; and worked so well, that at the regular meeting, held on the 16th December, when I laid before them the resolution you wanted altered, W. Bro. Tweddell said that the motion was his; that he would not make, or allow to be made, any alteration in it; that if it was indefinite, he was now prepared to make another motion which he hoped would be definite enough. He then made a motion that Harington Lodge join the G. L. of Q. This motion I would not allow to be put; and ably assisted by W. Bro. McCallum and some few members who remained still true to their colors, the motion was modified to read as follows:

"That a committee be appointed to consider the state of Freemasonry in Canada, and the advisability of forming a Grand Lodge for the Province of Quebec."

This much being accomplished, and having an important engagement, I retired, leaving W. Bro. McCallum to watch proceedings. Nothing further transpired, ex-