



“Memor et Fidelis.”

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PROCEEDINGS OF GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

Grand Lodge of Emergency, November 19.

THE M. W. the Grand Master summoned a Grand Lodge of Emergency on the 19th of November, to take up the business at the point at which it terminated at the Quarterly Communication in September last, and to ignore and declare null and void the proceedings of the adjourned Grand Lodge held October 1.

The Right Hon.—the Earl of Zetland, G.M., presided in person, supported by Sir Lucius Curtis, Prov. G.M. of Hampshire, as D.G.M.; R. W. Fleming, Prov. G.M. Isle of Wight; R. J. Bagshaw, Prov. G.M. of Essex; C. P. Cooper, Prov. G.M. of Kent; Dr. Kent, Prov. G.M. of South Australia; T. H. Hall, Prov. G.M. of Cambridge; S. Rawson, Prov. G.M. of China; Colonel Burlington, Prov. G.M. of Bengal; Lord Goderich, S.G.W.; Fredrick Dundas, as J.G.W.; Cox and Moore, G. Chaps.; Henderson, P. G. Reg.; Dolne, G. Reg.; J. Havers, P.G.S.D.; J. Hervey, P.G.S.D.; H. K. G. Potter, P.G.S.D.; H. Faudel, P.G.S.D.; J. Parkinson, P.G.S.D.; F. White, P.G.S.D.; A. A. Le Veau, P.G.S.B.; R. J. Spies, P.G.S.B.; T. Masson, P.G.S.B.; J. Biggs, P.G.S.B.; H. Parker, P.G.S.B.; T. B. King, P.G.S.B.; H. L. Crohn, Sec. for German Correspondence; White and Farnfield, G. Seces; R. W. Jennings, G. Dir. of Cer.; W. Brething, P.G. Purs.

The Grand Lodge having been opened in due form.

The Grand Secretary read the circular issued by the M.W. the Grand Master calling the Grand Lodge of Emergency.

THE RIGHT TO ADJOURN

The Grand Master said: “Brethren, I think it due to Grand Lodge that I should now state my reasons more immediately for calling this Grand Lodge, and I trust I shall be able to show you, in connection with those reasons, that I have taken this step simply, because, in my opinion, it was a step necessary to the faithful discharge of my duty. At the September Quarterly Communication the Grand Lodge passed a resolution that the Grand Lodge should adjourn to the 1st of October, and now I have to give my most decided opinion that such an adjournment was illegal (hear, hear), and that whatever proceedings took place at such adjourned meeting are null and void. (Hear.) Brethren, I will now state my reasons for coming to this decision. By the Book of

Constitutions, page 19, article 7. the law states that there shall be ‘four Quarterly Communications in each year, viz, on the first Wednesday in the months of March, June, September, and December, at which none shall be present but the proper members, without permission of the Grand Master. No visitor shall speak to any question without leave of the Grand Master, nor shall he, on any occasion, be permitted to vote.’ But there is not one word in the Book of Constitutions which provides, or gives power to G. Lodge, *propria motu*, to adjourn. The Book of Constitutions however, does provide for Grand Lodges of Emergency. and in page 21 article 10, you will find, ‘the Grand Master, in his absence, the pro Grand Master, in his absence, the Dep. G. Master, or, in his absence, the Grand Wardens, may summon and hold Grand Lodges of Emergency, whenever the good of the Craft shall in their opinion, require it; the particular reason for convening such Lodge of Emergency shall be expressed in the summons, and no other business shall be entered upon at that meeting.’ Now Brethren, you will observe by that law that special instructions are given as to the mode of holding the Grand Lodges of Emergency, but not a word is said about the power of adjourning. I may go farther and say that Private Lodges are governed by much the same laws as Grand Lodges, and that no meeting of a Private Lodge can be adjourned; but the Master of a Private Lodge may, and does convene Lodges of Emergency. We have heard it said that there were before Grand Lodge, questions of the greatest importance, which demanded an adjournment of Grand Lodge, but I have looked carefully through the business of that adjourned Grand Lodge, and find no one of the questions analogous to the business of the last Quarterly Communication. I think it due to the Grand Lodge that I should explain what I consider to be the real state of the case. In June, 1853, the Grand Master summoned a Grand Lodge of Emergency, owing to a pressure of business, and that Special Grand Lodge was called by command of the Grand Master. That is a course which differs entirely from the course pursued in September last, because the Grand Master was not in the chair, but Grand Lodge simply passed a resolution to adjourn the meeting, which they had no power, to do. In 1854 (April 16) the summons states, that that being the day of humiliation, the grand festival cannot be held, and that the Grand Master had appointed the 29th of that month, and required the Brethren to meet on the 20th in order to adjourn till the 29th of the same month. This adjournment was moved and seconded, and done by command by the G. Master entirely. The Gr. Master had previously fixed the

day to which the adjournment should be made, and it was adjourned in consequence of his command. I may state farther, that, looking over the minutes of Grand Lodge, it appears to me that ‘adjourn’ is a term when used with respect to Grand Lodge the same as when used in the House of Commons. In that House the question is, ‘that the House do now adjourn,’ which means to the next legal day of meeting, and it is adjourned accordingly to the next day appointed by law for it to meet, and so when Grand Lodge adjourns, it means that it adjourns till the next Quarterly Communication. I am prepared to stand by my own decision on this point,—that when Grand Lodge adjourns it adjourns to the next legal day, unless a Grand Lodge of Emergency be called by the Grand Master for special business, and on which occasion no other business can be done except such business as appears upon the circular convening that Grand Lodge of Emergency. I have taken some pains to ascertain the law of the case, and I find that in my view of the law of the case I am supported by the opinions of the present G. Registrar, the Past Grand Registrar, and the Grand Registrar before him (hear, hear); in fact, I have all the authorities with me. I think, therefore, in accordance with the obligations which I have taken an oath to perform,—viz, to adhere to the ancient usages of the Craft, and maintain the law as, in my opinion, it stands, I can only come to the painful resolution to determine that the meeting of certain members of Grand Lodge, held on the 1st of October, was an illegal meeting, and that all the proceedings there were null and void; and I now call upon the Grand Secretary to take up the business of this evening at the point at which it had arrived when the Grand Lodge closed at its Quarterly Communication in September.” (Applause.)

Bro. Hearn: “Most Worshipful Grand Master, with every deference—”

The Grand Master: “I shall not allow the point to be argued.”

The Grand Secretary then read the minutes of proceedings and the Report of the Colonial Committee.

THE COLONIAL COMMITTEE

Bro. Colonel Burlington moved that this report be adopted, and spoke as follows:—“I regret that this duty should not have fallen upon some one more capable of doing justice to it than I am; but though I may be somewhat plain in my speech, I hope you will excuse me and allow me to speak with that frankness which becomes one gentleman towards another. I shall say nothing disrespectful to you, Most Worshipful Sir, or to the high situation which you hold. I shall say nothing to dis-