

an absolute controlling power to the Prov. Grand Lodge, as to enable them to state their charges against the Prov. Grand Master, so that they might come under his consideration, and he remove the Prov. Grand Master if desirable. Within six months of the receipt of these reports, he will communicate his decision to the Prov. Grand Secretary, and take such steps as appear to be necessary, both with respect to the Prov. Grand Master and the Prov. Grand Lodge. There are doubtless some who wish for the power of electing their own Prov. Grand Master, yet there are many who desire not to have that power taken from the Grand Master; and it would create great dissension and ill feeling in various parts of the globe to make the Prov. Grand Masters elective.

Bro. Col. Burlington, Past Prov. Grand Master of Bombay, here interrupted the Grand Secretary, and asked if there was any motion before the chair. [Hear, hear.]

Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon said, the communication which had been read from the M. W. the Grand Master consisted of two parts; the one referred to money matters, and the other to the Prov. Grand Masters. He wished to call the attention of Grand Lodge to one of these questions, and to raise a discussion upon it.

The Grand Master: Any communication of this kind from the Grand Master is placed before Grand Lodge as a matter of course, and the alterations therein proposed to be made will now be put as substantive motions.

Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal said that what the Earl of Carnarvon wanted to know was whether Grand Lodge would have an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon that portion of the Grand Master's communication which was not referred to in the resolutions about to be submitted.

The Grand Master: I am only here to control the order of your proceedings. The Grand Master has stated his views; as a matter of course, they will be recorded as a portion of our proceedings. On that subject we can have no discussion. I have had the honour now of belonging to this Grand Lodge thirty-five years, and till the last three years I have regularly attended. This has always been our rule. There has never been a discussion on the communication of the Grand Master.

Bro. White, the Grand Secretary then proposed a series of resolutions, the object of which was to give effect to the propositions by the M. W. the Grand Master, as set forth in the statement read.

Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon said: I have listened with deep attention to the specific motion which has been formulated out of the communication of the M. W. Grand Master. I shall be happy to vote for it, provided always that we have subsequently a vote taken upon the other part of it, which relates to the Prov. Grand Masters. [Hear, hear.] I concur in what I will call the money clauses—all those which relate to alterations to be made in the Book of Constitutions; but I shall feel it my duty to lay before the Grand Lodge my serious objections to that part of the propositions which relates to the Prov. Grand Masters. I ask therefore if we shall take a second motion on the communication as a whole, as to whether or not it shall be entered on the minutes!

The Grand Master: Any communication from the Grand Master must be recorded upon your minutes. That has always been the course hitherto pursued.

The Rev. Bro. Portal called the attention of the chair to the fact that the Grand Master "recommended and submitted" his statement "to the consideration and decision of Grand Lodge." These were the Grand Master's own words. [Hear, hear, and applause.] Yet they were told by the representative of the Grand Master on the present occasion, that they were not to be allowed to consider and decide. [Hear, hear.]

The Grand Master: We are not discussing what shall be done with respect to the Prov. Grand Master's question; that subject is not before us in the substantive motion which has been put.

The Earl of Carnarvon: I am compelled then to see the discussion in a manner in which I

did not desire to do it, sooner than permit the subject to pass away unnoticed and without discussion.

Col. Burlington here rose amidst loud cries of "Carnarvon! Carnarvon!" and said that a higher authority than the Grand Master, viz. the Grand Lodge itself, had appointed a committee for the express purpose of inquiring into the expediency of forming a body to whom all letters and correspondence relative to colonial matters should be submitted for consideration. That committee assembled several times, and had made its report, which should have been communicated to Grand Lodge in June last. Great discontent prevailed on the subject, and he thought that report ought certainly to be read before any resolution on the question was agreed to by Grand Lodge. [Hear, hear.] He wished the Brethren to recollect that the Colonial Lodges were not so much dissatisfied with the 7s. 6d., or even with the returns they were called upon to make; what they were justly indignant about was, that they received no replies whatever to their complaints and communications. [Hear, hear.] Petitions remained unnoticed for years and years. [Hear, hear! and cries of "Shame!"] Some had gone unnoticed for ten years to his knowledge. ["Shame! shame!"] It was to remedy this state of things that the committee was appointed, and as they had gone carefully into the matter, it was right that their opinions should be heard. [Applause.] He concluded by an amendment to that effect.

Bro. Bagshaw, Prov. Grand Master for Essex, seconded the motion. He was quite satisfied that the success of the Craft in the colonies depended upon the confirmation of the recommendation of that communication, and he therefore seconded the amendment most cordially.

Bro. Jennings said, that what the M. W. the Grand Master communicated to them became matter of record. With his prerogative they could not interfere. That which was submitted as an alteration in the law was alone a fit subject for their discussion. All that the Grand Master promulgated as law they had a right to discuss, but that which he communicated as a simple statement of his views they had no right to discuss.

Bro. the Hon. George C. Anderson, Prov. Grand Master for the Bahamas, said he felt, for his part, that a debt of gratitude was due to the Grand Master for the attention he had paid to the colonial matters, and he regretted therefore that such an amendment should have been made. He had no doubt that the report would show that their interests had been attended to. ["Oh, oh" and laughter.] At any rate he thought that such a report should not take the precedence of the Grand Master. The proposition to give the Prov. Grand Master power of signing the certificates would be a great boon, as it sometimes took twelve months to get them from Grand Lodge, and in the mean while the Brethren initiated had left the colony, and often had gone no one knew whither.

Bro. Bagshaw, Prov. Grand Master for Essex, said the committee referred to was composed largely of Brethren who had had considerable colonial experience in Canada and the West Indies; and while he had the highest respect for the M. W. the Grand Master, he felt that the committee so constituted and so appointed ought to be heard before even a resolution from the M. W. the Grand Master. That committee had the confidence of Grand Lodge, and it had made suggestions of an important character, and no alteration in the laws of Freemasonry on the colonial question ought to be made without their opinion being first heard. [Hear, hear.]

Bro. Colonel Burlington said, it was not the 7s. 6d., or the certificates, but the silent contempt with which colonial Brethren were treated which had led to the dissatisfaction. Ten years ago, in Bengal, when he was Prov. Grand Master there he suspended a Brother from his Masonic rights and privileges. The Brother appealed against his decision, and he sent that appeal home ten years ago, and it had never been answered yet. [Loud cries of "Shame! shame!" and other marks of disapprobation.]

The feelings of the Brethren were very much excited, at the statements with respect to the inattention in these Grand Secretary's office, and when the amendment was put, after some further discussion, it was carried, amidst loud cheers, by an overwhelming majority.

The Rev. Bro. Portal asked, if it were lawful for him to move that the report of the colonial committee be now read?

The Grand Master: Certainly not, Brother.

#### REPORT OF THE COLONIAL COMMITTEE.

The report of the special committee appointed at the Quarterly Communication in March, "to inquire into the expediency of forming a board to whom all matters and correspondence relative to Lodges in the colonies be referred for adjudication and decision."

The committee report their opinion as follows:—

First.—That it is expedient that a board be formed, to be called "The Colonial Board, to consist of ten members of Grand Lodge, five of whom shall be a quorum.

Secondly.—That the said board shall, after the first instance, be nominated and elected at the same time and in the same manner as the Board of General Purposes, with exceptions hereinafter specified.

Thirdly.—That when practicable, three of the above board shall be Past Masters of Colonial Lodges, members of Grand Lodge.

Fourthly.—That the said board shall have similar powers, as regards the colonies, to those at present exercised by the Board of General Purposes.

Fifthly.—That the constitution of this board shall be as follows:—seven members shall be elected by Grand Lodge, the three colonial members shall be nominated by the Grand Master, who shall also appoint the chairman and vice-chairman from the board so constituted.

Sixthly.—That the board so constituted shall meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 3 p.m.

Seventhly.—That it shall be the special duty of the Grand Secretary to submit to the board all communications whatever received from the colonies at its first meeting after their receipt.

Eighthly.—It appearing to this committee important that no unnecessary delay should occur in carrying out the above suggestions herein made, it is recommended that the members of this committee perform the functions of the proposed board until the permanent board is appointed in June, 1857.

(Signed) W. BURLTON, Chairman,  
May 14th, 1856. P. Prov. G.M. for Bengal.

Bro. H. G. Warren then said, at this late hour of the evening we cannot properly discuss a motion of this kind. [Hear, hear.] We cannot go on after eleven o'clock. I therefore propose that Grand Lodge do now adjourn till this day month. [Hear, hear, and loud cheers.] If allowed to adjourn in the usual way, all your motions are thrown over again for three months. [Hear, hear.] This colonial question of itself will take one whole evening at least.

The Grand Master: You had better go on with this motion till eleven o'clock. [No, no.]

Bro. Warren said, if they did so, the Grand Master would rule that the motion could not be put [hear, hear], and he for one was not in a position to go on with the discussion until he had seen the report either in print or in writing [hear, hear,] and as he could not bring on his motion after eleven o'clock, he moved that the Grand Lodge do adjourn till that day month. [Cheers.]

Bro. Portal expressed a hope that the report would be printed and circulated.

The question of adjournment was then put and carried almost unanimously.

The Grand Lodge was then closed in solemn form, and stands adjourned till this day [Oct. 1] at the hour of eight