

*Lodge could possibly have been formed by the remaining two, nor could a Provincial Grand Lodge even exist with less than three. It is also a fact that only one of these two Lodges had given in its adhesion to the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, and even against that, a protest was lodged by one or more of its loyal members.*

8.—That when the action of the Committee was reported to the Meeting of Officers of Lodges, the Meeting approved of that action; but being desirous of arranging matters in a proper Masonic manner, and having in view the assurance of G. Master Wilson given them in 1867, they appointed a deputation, consisting of W. Past Master Milton, of St. Lawrence Lodge, R. of England, and R. W. Bros. Isaacson, Murray and Graham, P. D. D. G. M's., to wait on the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and acquaint him with what had been done, and to ask his assistance and that of the Grand Lodge of Canada in arranging matters amicably with the Masons of Ontario, and further to request him to call a Meeting of the Grand Lodge of Canada, for the consideration of the position. The deputation reported that they had done their duty, but that the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, much to their surprise, refused to recognize the position of affairs, and refused to report the matter to the Grand Lodge of Canada, in communication; but, at their urgent request, he consented to give them an answer in a few days. The answer came in the form of a summons to appear before him and shew cause why they should not be suspended for violating their obligation as masons.

In the interim, the circular had been issued to all the Lodges, and the Lodges proceeded to appoint delegates to the Convention. On the second Thursday in October, at the meeting at Zetland Lodge, Montreal, (the W. M. of which Lodge was absent in the Southern States by reason of ill health,) the D. D. G. M. for the Montreal District (R. W. Bro. Gutman,) assumed the chair of the Lodge, and refused to allow the Past Master to take the chair. When the circular came up for consideration, he refused to allow it to be read, and presented an edict from the Grand Master on the subject, and on the Past Master of the Lodge protesting against the receipt of the edict as it had not the seal of the Grand Lodge attached, he, without any action or resolution of the Lodge, and without even asking the opinion of the Members of the Lodge on the subject before them, assumed the power to suspend the Lodge, and took possession of the warrant of the Lodge, and took it away with him.

NOTE, No. 8.—The want of knowledge displayed by the author of this section, in regard to the powers and prerogatives of a District Deputy Grand Master, is truly lamentable; even the constitutional provisions respecting that officer seem to have been wholly unknown or entirely overlooked.

9.—That this Edict of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, read at Zetland Lodge, threatened with suspension any Mason attending the Convention called for the 20th October.

NOTE, No. 9.—Grand Lodge will have noticed that this statement is made without the slightest foundation. The Edict makes no allusion whatever to suspension, and contains no threats of any kind.

10.—That on the 20th October, at the British Masonic Chambers, Montreal, the Convention of Lodges was held. Twenty-one Lodges out of the thirty-seven Lodges, of all jurisdictions, existing in the Province of Quebec, were represented by delegates at that Convention, and then and there acting under precedent established, Masonic Law, and the unanimous verdict of all living authorities who had been consulted on the subject, and whose views were placed before the Convention, the Grand Lodge of Quebec was duly constituted, and its officers invested and installed.

The subscribers have deemed it best on their own responsibility, and without the advice or influence of others, to place these facts before the F. & A. M. of the Province of Ontario without comment, further than to say that they consider the suspension of Lodges and Masons, for the action they have taken in this matter, as unwarranted,