

## COPY BRO. HARRIS'S REPLY.

"WINNIPEG, Aug. 26th, 1878.

"To Hon. W. N. Kennedy, P. G. M., on behalf of D. M. Walker, Wm. G. Scott, G. F. Carruthers, and others.

"DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a document purporting to be a copy of a petition dated the 24th July, and presented to me on the 24th inst.

"I beg to call your attention to the fact that a document for so important an object ought to be an original, not the copy which you have presented. The copy is not even certified. It is also defective and informal in not designating my present official title.

"Waiving for a moment the informalities I have pointed out, I have to remind you that a petition of a similar nature was presented to the M. W. Grand Master before he left the Province. He replied thereto to the effect that he was willing to hear any complaints members of the Grand Lodge had to make, and named certain parties to act on behalf of Grand Lodge.

"You have not acknowledged the M. W. Grand Master's communication, or replied to it in any way, so far as I know.

"I may further state that your petition does not appear to be framed in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution. See page 16, last part of clause 18; see also page 26, clause 19; and page 27, clause 21.

"I will say in conclusion that if any member or members of the Grand Lodge feel aggrieved at any action or thing done by the Grand Lodge at its last session, and will state their grievances or complaints in writing, and forward the same to me, I, as the official head,—in the absence of the M. W. Grand Master,—of the Grand Lodge and of the Board of General Purposes, will call a meeting of the Board to hear and determine upon such complaints; and should such complaints be well founded, I will deem it a duty to call a meeting of Grand Lodge to finally dispose of the matter.

"I herewith return the copy of petition, and respectfully request the original amended in the particulars I have pointed out.

"I have the honor to be, fraternally yours,  
" (Signed) J. W. HARRIS,

"D. G. M."

The only response to the above was the following loving letter by E. G. Conklin, P. J. G. W.:

"WINNIPEG, 3rd Sept., 1878.

"J. H. Bell, Esq., Grand Secretary Grand Lodge of Manitoba.

"R. W. SIR AND BROTHER,—I have the honor to request you to summon a special meeting of the Grand Lodge on Wednesday, the 11th inst., at 10 o'clock, a.m., to consider a protest against the action of Grand

Lodge at the last Annual Communication, and to re-consider the business transacted at the said meeting.

"A petition signed by a majority of the members of Grand Lodge, and who represented a majority of subordinate Lodges, was presented to the Deputy Grand Master (in the absence of the Grand Master from the Province,) and to the Grand Senior Warden, requesting them to call a special communication, but was respectively declined by each of them: and I now, as Grand Junior Warden, make this request, and would like at your earliest convenience a reply.

"I am, Dear Sir and Brother,

"Yours fraternally,

" (Signed) E. G. CONKLIN,  
"G. J. W. G. L. Manitoba."

"WINNIPEG, 6th Sept., 1878.

"E. G. Conklin, Esq., City.

"SIR AND BRO.—Yours of the 3rd inst. received yesterday morning, and I embrace the first opportunity to reply; but I suppose from its contents that you are under a misapprehension; for I am credibly informed that the M. W. Grand Master is within the Province, and is expected in the city within a week, and while he is in the jurisdiction he only can call a meeting of Grand Lodge; and even if he were not in the Province, the D. G. M. is, and according to the Constitution, page 16, clause 18, it appears that only in the absence from the Province of these two officers can the Wardens (conjointly) call a meeting of Grand Lodge, and no where in the Constitution is such power invested in private members. I have also records in this office showing that the D. G. M. has not declined to call a meeting of Grand Lodge.

"I would therefore respectfully request you to point out by what authority you presume to instruct me to call a meeting of Grand Lodge, while the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master are within the jurisdiction. When you furnish to me (in writing) constitutional authority warranting me, as Grand Secretary, to call said meeting together, with the specific business (also in writing) to be transacted at said meeting, I am prepared to issue a proper summons.

"Yours fraternally,

" (Signed) JOHN H. BELL,

"G. Sec'y G. L. of Manitoba A.F. & A.M."

I had not been long returned from the west, when I received an application for a dispensation by Hiram Lodge, No. 5, to receive the application of a candidate who resided within the jurisdiction of Lisgar Lodge. I declined to grant this application until I had visited Lisgar Lodge, and determined its position. This I was enabled to do at the regular communication on the 4th November. An examination of their books showed they were over \$300 in debt, with a