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HISTORY OF MASONRY IN CANADA.—No. 4.

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(Continued.)

We now make some extracts from the report of R. W. Bro. MacGillivray H. R. Highness the Duke of Sussex.

"On my arrival at York, and after seeing Bro. Fitzgibbon respecting whom I had made sufficient previous enquiry, I determined to appoint him my Deputy, and accordingly gave him the necessary act of appointment. It then did, and still appears to me that Bro. Fitzgibbon's character and habits qualify him peculiarly for the performance of the duties of what is likely to prove rather a troublesome office, and what requires more than ordinary zeal in the cause, to undertake. His masonic experience has not been very great, but such instruction as I was capable to afford has been given him, and I feel confident that he will soon greatly improve the state of the Lodges under his superintendance.

"It was obviously necessary to appoint a Prov. Secretary, to assist and act under the direction of the Deputy Prov. Grand Master, and from the great extent of the province, (some of the Lodges being situated at a distance of 500 miles from each other,) and the probability that the Prov. Grand Lodge might occasionally meet in different districts, I thought it would be extremely convenient to have the assistance of two Secretaries, and therefore in addition to Bro. Dean, I appointed Bro. Turquand assistant to the surveyor general of the province, to be the other Prov. Grand Secretary.

"On the 18th day of Sept. the brethren from the country began to arrive, and they kept making their appearance in twos and threes during the 19th, 20th, 21st, so that it was impossible to hold a meeting on the appointed day, (the 20th,) since there was some labor for the Secretaries and myself in arranging the documents brought up by the different Lodges, and preparing dispensations for them, without which, they had notice that they could not be received into the Prov. Grand Lodge. I saw very soon that the required payment of the registering fees would occasion difficulties, as it was easy to perceive the drift of several questions asked by different parties in succession, to detail all which would be needlessly to intrude upon your Royal Highness's time.

"At length, on the morning of the 21st, a note was placed in my hands stating that "a committee appointed by the delegates of several of the Lodges in the province wished to confer with me on "masonic business," to this note I returned a verbal answer, (the note was signed by C. Duncombe,

chairman of said committee,) by one of the secretaries, stating that I could not recognize or receive delegates from Lodges, nor hold any communication from a committee professing to act in that capacity. I had summoned the attendance of Masters, Past Masters and Wardens of Lodges, and I could not receive them in any other character, but if any private brethren, as individuals, wished to converse with me, I should at all times be glad to see them. Accordingly five of the brethren came to my quarters, and my deputy and secretary being present, a very long conversation took place, the whole of which it is impossible to repeat, but the substance of a part of which I feel it right to report to your Royal Highness.

"The Chairman of the Committee was the principal orator, and he really possessed great fluency of talking. He and those who thought with him, (for they were not unanimous,) wished to negotiate, instead of giving the preliminary promise which I had required, "to obey the laws of the Grand Lodge, and the commands of the Grand Master." They stated that although they directly represented only three Lodges, yet there were several others which would certainly follow their example; in short, they plainly gave me to understand that they were leaders of a party who were doubtful about submitting to my authority, and who meant to claim further concessions as the condition of receiving a Provincial Grand Master, appointed in England. The first point, therefore, for which they contended, was that they ought to have the power to appoint their own Grand Master. They were pleased to say that they had no objection to me, and they were even disposed to pay me personal compliments, but referred to my predecessor's neglect of his office, and asked what guarantee they could have against similar neglect in my successor, or what check they could have over a Prov. G. Master, unless that of a re-election. They then complained of being called on to pay the registering fee, talked of the poverty of the Province, (which at the present moment is too true,) and affirmed that several of them had already paid these fees to the Grand Lodge of Niagara, as it is called, and how did they know that they might not be called on to pay the same fees a third time? To these questions, some of which were scarcely courteous, I gave the best answers that occurred to me. I told them that after their Lodges had obtained warrants, and they themselves should be registered Masons on the books of the Grand Lodge, they would have a right to be there represented, and to complain of any misconduct or neglect in their Prov. G. Master or any other officer. That as to the fees, I lamented to hear it stated that they had already been paid at Niagara, since if that was the case, the