

and privileges owned the masonic stock of such a glorious inheritance, and not have left so important a matter wholly to inference. The author of the argument to which I am addressing myself, brings down his statistics no farther than the year 1848, at which time, according to his information, said stock consisted of ninety-seven shares, of which England possessed eighty, Ireland fifteen, and Scotland two.

Upon the loyal theory suggested, the writer might with propriety have insisted that England and Scotland should have enjoyed Ireland from interfering with their partnership rights, by acknowledging Canadian Masonic Independence.

A partnership where each separate partner acts independent of the firm, transacts his part of the business independent of his associates, carries it on in his own name and on his own responsibility, and has a "joint individual interest" and a "right of survivorship" besides, in so large a property as the masonic territory of Canada, *without knowing it or suspecting it himself*, is an invention which leaves steam and telegraphs in the far distance, and will only be equalled by the discovery of a partially successful rudder to the balloon.

It is among my strongest wishes, personally, to see the masonry of this continent firmly established on its own unsculptured Doric column, as strong in its moral as are the Pyramids in their physical strength. Every lawful masonic act which, to a fair and unbiassed judgment, has a tendency in that direction, has always had and always will have my warmest encouragement and firmest support. I sincerely and solemnly believe the movement in Canada to have been one of that kind, and, in common with the members of this Grand Lodge, I have felt bound to give it the best support in my power. I have no doubt of its eventual success, and none that such success is most highly important both to the masonry of Canada and of the United States. To ourselves, my brethren, who are the immediate neighbors of Canada, and who know, personally, many of the officers and members of the Independent Grand Lodge, and of the lodges which recognize its organization, it is wholly idle to talk about masonic "rebellion." We know them to be legitimate and true masons, and worthy of the name; law-abiding men; men whom we esteem for their manliness and their virtues; men with whom it is our pleasure and our pride to exchange the right hand of fellowship, and from an association with whom no bull of excommunication—come it whence it may—will ever be able to separate us. The masonic course of their predecessors, more than forty years ago, and when the unfortunate cloud of war hung over our respective countries, is not unfamiliar to me. Some of its unpublished annals have survived and are in my possession,

preserved and transmitted to me by that most worthy Grand Master who preceded me in the oriental chair. Those annals show the same honourable, exalted and brotherly spirit, which characterizes our Canadian brethren of the present hour. In sustaining such men, and their lawful masonic acts, we sustain the order in its purity, and strengthen the foundation on which rests the Doric column of American Freemasonry.

PHILIP C. TUCKER,
Grand Master of the Grand Lodge
of Vermont.

Burlington, Jan. 14, 1857.

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MONTREAL, MARCH 2, 1857.

We present our readers to-day, with that portion of the Grand Master's address to the Grand Lodge of Vermont, which relates to the Grand Lodge of Canada, and earnestly recommend it to the careful perusal of every mason into whose hands the present number of the *Pioneer* may fall.

M. W. Brother Philip C. Tucker, the Grand Master of Vermont, is well known, all the world over, as being one of the most clear-headed, warm-hearted masonic veterans who ever lived. His knowledge of the history, usages, and principles of freemasonry is unsurpassed, if not unequalled by any living man. His unshrinking devotion to our Order during a long series of years, including that period of anti-masonic excitement and persecution, which in his own state, in particular, severely tried men's sincerity, proves his whole soul to be thoroughly imbued with its genuine spirit. While he is the last man to look to for countenance in an infraction of masonic law, those who read his address will perceive that he is not to be easily driven from the defence of that which is masonically legal and right. He is an old, able, eloquent masonic writer; but had he never before lifted his pen, this masterly vindication of the proceedings of Canadian masons, and of the position and rights of our Grand Lodge, would have rendered his

name immortal, and covered his memory with imperishable honour.

Not Canada alone, but the whole masonic world owes him an everlasting debt of obligation for this sound and lucid exposition of the principles involved in the question of the constitutionality of our Independent Grand Lodge. Facts so unquestionable, reasoning so strictly logical, arguments so perfectly clear and so forcible, as are here presented, cannot fail to satisfy every mind not totally blinded by unmitigated prejudice.

But neither prejudice, want of sympathy, love of oppression, or an aversion to sanction that which was right, has had much to do in causing some of our sister Grand Lodges to withhold from us their fraternal recognition and fellowship. It has been more the fear of doing wrong by countenancing schism and rebellion, and this fear was the creature of ignorance. Our case was, in some respects, anomalous and the principles applicable to it but little understood. New York, identifying it with her own, sounded the alarm, and with some others, shrank from us, as all good and true masons should shrink from schismatics, with instinctive horror.

The Grand Master of Vermont has completely dispelled the obscuring mists which hung around the subject, and lighted it up with rays clear as sunshine, culminated from history, precedent, law, usage and principle, and thrown upon it with all the force and power of truth and eloquence. We entertain no doubt that the result will be most salutary. Our brethren *must* either answer these arguments, or yield to their force. To answer them is impossible, and we therefore confidently anticipate an early recognition of our just rights, by *all* the Grand Lodges upon this continent, and peaceful fraternal fellowship with all true masons throughout the universe.

The following correspondence can be properly understood and appreciated, by those only who are acquainted with the proceedings of some of the officers of the late Provincial Grand Lodge of Montreal and William Henry, since the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada. We say "late Provincial Grand Lodge," because, although, the Provincial Grand Master, who resides in Quebec, still holds his commission, his Grand Lodge has ceased to exist; the late election of Treasurer and appointment of other officers having taken place in November, 1854, whereas the regulations required that this should be done annually.

The lodges which united in establishing the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada were not only willing, but particularly desirous to conform in all things to masonic law and usage. They were, therefore, perfectly prepared to deliver up their warrants, to those European Grand Lodges from which they had been received. Of this, the Provincial Grand Master was promptly informed. He intimated that those