

Jarvis,	No. 26.....	Augusta.
North Star	.....	Hamilton.
Union,	.....	Ancaster, (late Dundas.)
United,	.....	Murray.
Prince Edward,	.....	Hallowell.
True Briton,	.....	Perth.

A good deal of business was transacted at this session, but chiefly concerning the internal government of the craft, and regulations for the guidance of the Lodges, &c.

The following relates to the position of the convention in regard to the Grand Lodge of England.

"The Secretary communicated information received from Bro. T. Laughton, acting as agent of the convention in laying our case before the United Grand Lodge of England. Also communicated the contents of his letter to the Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England, in reply to the information from Bro. Laughton, and nominating James Fitzgibbon, Esq., of York, as Provincial Grand Master, and of documents accompanying, which were unanimously approved and the thanks of the convention voted him for his exertions in their behalf.

Resolved—"That a committee be appointed to stand until our next communication, to the members of which the secretary shall communicate all news he may receive of our application to the United Grand Lodge of England and that such committee be ordered to report at our next meeting of the result of their correspondence and consultations. The object of appointing such committee being to concert such measures, hereafter to be adopted, as may be deemed proper, upon further learning the intentions of the United Grand Lodge of England."

So ended the Grand Convention, an association which during the five and half years of its existence did a vast deal of good and raised the Lodges which owned its rule from anarchy to a fair state of order and discipline. Nor were these Lodges by any means few, the total number represented being 24, and the average representation at each meeting 14. The patience with which the brethren persevered year after year in the desire to have their claims recognized by the Grand Lodge of England, hoping, as they did, almost against hope, is worthy of all praise. The several petitions to the Grand Master, and the communications of Brothers Ferguson and Dean, the successive Secretaries of the Convention well deserve preservation, but what can we say of the position taken by the Masonic authorities in England, to whom these documents were addressed, during these five and a half years? They never vouchsafed even an acknowledgment of the receipt of the important documents sent to them time after time, and how much longer this would have lasted we cannot tell, for it was only when advantage was taken of the visit of Bro. Laughton to England, who made personal enquiry on the spot, that it was discovered that because these Lodges did not happen to be registered on the books of the Grand Lodge of England, they were not considered worthy of notice; but the fault that this was so did not lie with the Canadian Lodges; it rested, such as it was, on the late Prov. Grand Master Jervis and his advisers, who never communicated to their superiors, the Grand Master and Grand Lodge of England, the

fact that they had ever constituted a single Lodge in Canada. No doubt Bro. Jervis greatly exceeded his power in conferring even one warrant; but the brethren who received these warrants in ignorance of his power, and in good faith, were not to be blamed for this, and moreover the laws regulating the government of Masonic Lodges were not at that time so well understood, even in England, as they now are; and in such a place as Canada then was, they were still less known. We are almost tempted to say, why did the Lodges in this country not declare themselves independent, and erect a Grand Lodge as they had every right to do? but perhaps it was much better they did not do so. Canada was not then ripe for that movement, and it is very questionable whether the Lodges would have then united under any independent head or government in this Province; the feud still ran high between those that acknowledged the Convention, and those that adhered to the Niagara Lodge, which still continued in active operation.

As regards which of the two were right, we certainly give the preference to the Convention, which, although it exercised most of the powers of a Grand Lodge, did so only temporarily, and as it were, under constraint, repeatedly declaring in a most solemn manner that this was done only for the purpose of keeping some sort of order and discipline among the Lodges, and until the Grand Lodge of England resumed the government of the Canadian Craft by appointing a Prov. Grand Master for the Province. While the Niagara section, whatever shadow of right it might have had during the lifetime of Bro. Jervis, (and this could not have been much, as the power was exercised without the consent and even against the will of the Prov. G. Master,) even this shadow departed at his decease in 1817. Again it must be remembered that the Convention was not called together until after his death, when it was well known that whatever power his patent might have conveyed lapsed, and became the same as if it had never been, so that during the whole time of its existence there was, as is tersely stated in the preamble to the minutes of the first meeting, no "Grand Lodge existing in the Province, nor any Board or Order vested with authority to perform the important functions legitimately pertaining to the office of Grand Master or Grand Secretary, and consequently no head to make or receive communications in the name or behalf of the Craft."

In the early part of July, 1822, R. W. Bro. Simon McGillivray arrived in Canada, having been appointed Provincial Grand Master for Upper Canada by His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, Grand Master of the United Fraternity of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of England.

His first Masonic act was to address the following letter to John Dean, Secretary to the Convention.

"MONTREAL, 20th July, 1822.

"SIR,—I have now before me your letter of the 20th of Nov. last, addressed to Edward Harper, Esq., Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of England, and signed by you as Secretary of a Convention of Free and Accepted Masons of Upper Canada.

"I have also before me a copy of the proceedings of the said Convention on the 8th February, 1819,