

state of Masonic feeling, that the invasion of the prerogative of Grand Lodge—as some thought fit to express it—by the alteration of the Table of Precedence, was likely to be a theme for discussion, if not for dissension, for some considerable time to come. Most gratifying, therefore, must it have been to all well-wishers of our grand Institution, when it was announced by the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, the Pro Grand Master, that he had been in conference with the Most Worshipful the Grand Master on several occasions during the last few days, and that he was desired to say the G. M. did not desire to make any change that would not be acceptable to the Craft. The Pro G. Master further stated, that His Royal Highness had since learned that the changes had not met with that general assent he had been led to expect. He was also aware that a question had been raised whether the Grand Master had even the power to alter the precedence, not of existing, but of future Grand Officers. The power which the Prince of Wales—acting under advice—had exercised, was precisely that which all successive Grand Masters, from the Duke of Sussex, had exercised without Grand Lodge questioning it. By direction of the Prince of Wales, inquiry had been made on the subject, and the result was to make it clear that the practice had been somewhat conflicting; at one time the Grand Master, and at another Grand Lodge, had conferred rank on brethren, and fixed their status in Grand Lodge. In the Book of Constitutions framed in 1815, shortly after the Union of the two Grand Lodges, Grand Lodge took power to propose to the Grand Master three names for each of the offices of Grand Chaplain, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Sword Bearer, for selection therefrom by him, the Grand Master having the absolute right to select the other nine Grand Officers. This, however, was found not to work satisfactorily, and Grand Lodge, by reso-

lution of 29th July, 1818, cancelled the arrangement, and the Grand Master took power to appoint to all the Grand Offices except the Grand Treasurer, and this was embodied in the Book of Constitutions which was published in 1819. Since then the Grand Master had so appointed his Grand Officers, and had fixed and altered their status on more than one occasion, without complaint, let, or hindrance on the part of Grand Lodge. It might, therefore, be concluded, for the fact proved itself, that the Grand Master had done this, and had continued to do it, with the sanction and approval of Grand Lodge, and the custom had, in this as in many other cases, made the law, though that law had not been recorded, as it ought to have been.

“On the other hand, Grand Lodge had every now and again, by specific resolution, conferred rank and station on different brethren. In September, 1862, it resolved to make the President of the Board of General Purposes a Grand Officer; this he was not before, and his status was then fixed. The Pro Grand Master assured the members of Grand Lodge, His Royal Highness had but one end in view, that was to promote the interests of Grand Lodge. Again, in June, 1881, it created the appointment of Deputy Director of Ceremonies, and the First and Second Grand Standard Bearers. The Grand Master and Grand Lodge had at different times exercised concurrent authority in the matter. He exercised his powers and used his prerogative in the name and for the sake of the Grand Lodge, and on a question such as this there could arise no difference between the Grand Master and Grand Lodge. Grand Lodge was naturally jealous of its privileges, and no one would be more watchful in guarding those privileges than the Grand Master. The great end and aim of the Prince of Wales in the position of Grand Master, conferred upon him by and over this ancient, honorable, and most useful institution,