

Lodge, and that three copies be sent to each Grand Lodge in communication with this Grand Lodge.

All which is respectfully submitted,

JAS. SEYMOUR,
Chairman.

M. W. Bro. W. M. Wilson, P. G. M., moved that the report of the committee on the M. W. Grand Master's Address, just read, be received and adopted.

In making the motion, M. W. Bro. WILSON said that he deemed it due to himself and to Grand Lodge, in view of the frequent references which had been made to his name in this unfortunate dispute, to say a few words on the motion. Looking back upon his own part in the proceedings in Grand Lodge, and the conversations to which the Act of Confederation, in its supposed relation to Freemasonry, had given rise, he had nothing to retract or be ashamed of. He questioned the wisdom or fairness of canvassing private conversations in relation to public events; and, in this case, such a course had led to very much misapprehension. At the time referred to, all their views were somewhat cloudy in relation to the effect, if any, Confederation had upon the status of Grand Lodge, and, in the freedom of conversation, many things were said, by way of suggestion, which it was most unfair to quote afterwards as deliberate and formal propositions. (Hear, Hear.) It was quite evident that the action taken at Kingston, in 1867, by Grand Lodge, and by brethren in Grand Lodge, was greatly misunderstood. The point at issue there was whether, under the political change, any change would be necessary in our masonic position; and, without due thought, an affirmative of this was too readily accepted. There were those who held that a Dominion Grand Lodge would be expedient; and against this proposal was placed that of independent Provincial Grand Lodges, in and for each of the Provinces. But both proposals were upon the assumption that some change might be necessary, and were not sustained as desirable *per se*. He had come to Grand Lodge at this time at very great inconvenience, and at some sacrifice of duty, because of the anxiety he felt lest anything should occur to mar the harmony of the Craft, and destroy the fabric which he had been somewhat instrumental in assisting to build up. He had come with three things firmly established in his mind, viz:—that the Province of Quebec had been masonically occupied since 1855; that the formation of a second Grand Lodge was illegal; and that it was the duty of Grand Lodge to sustain the Grand Master in the course he had found himself compelled to take in this emergency. (Hear, Hear.) He had been written to by a number of the brethren from Quebec, but he had steadily refused to acquiesce in the wisdom or the legality of their course. Nova Scotia had been cited as a precedent for the action of Quebec; but there was really no analogy between the cases. Nova Scotia had never been claimed as within the exclusive masonic jurisdiction of any Grand Lodge, and was, in fact, "unoccupied territory," in the strict sense of that term, when the Grand Lodge was formed in it. It stood in precisely the same position as that occupied by Quebec before the erection of the Grand Lodge of Canada; and it was perfectly competent, at that time, for the brethren from Lower Canada, now Quebec, to have formed a Grand Lodge, had they desired to do so. They did not do so; on the contrary, with distinct political boundaries, then as much as now,