

authority in requesting you to withdraw from the Lodge." [Hear, hear.]

Bro. Harris. "Well, you have only called me to order once, yet—" [Laughter.]

Bro. Harris attempted to proceed, but was literally "put down" by some of the Grand Stewards, amidst loud cries of "Hear him!" "No, no!" and great confusion.

Bro. Jennings expressed a hope that the Brethren would endeavour to govern their feelings, (loud cries of "Bravo, bravo!" "Divide, divide!")

Bro. Green, of No. 318, said, the object of the speech was to convey to the Grand Lodge and the Craft in general, the views of the Grand Master on the question to which it related, and he hoped, therefore, that Bro. Warren would withdraw his amendment. (Loud cries of "No, no!")

Bro. Jennings said, the amendment said nothing against the speech being recorded as an expression of the Grand Master's views; it only objected to confirming it as a part of the minutes. (Hear, hear! from Bro. Warren.)

Bro. Warren's amendment was then put, and carried by an overwhelming majority—ten to one; the result was announced by the Grand Master, who declared that the enthusiastic cheering with which it was received was "quite unMasonic."

Bro. Binckes moved the non-confirmation of another part of the minutes—that which related to the £500 proposed to be given to the Widows' Annuity Fund. He thought that it should have £1,000 as well as the other charities.

The Grand Master said that Brother Warren's resolution was, in fact a confirmation of the minutes, with the exception of the Grand Master's speech, and he could not, therefore, hear of any other amendment upon the subject.

The majority of the lodge appeared decidedly against this ruling of the chair.

The Grand Master: "Go on, then, Bro. Binckes." (Laughter.)

Bro. Binckes proceeded to explain his views, but a number of the Brethren urged him to be content with the £500 now, and to move for another £500 at a future opportunity. He ultimately withdrew his motion, and the minutes, as amended were then put and confirmed.

#### THE COLONIAL QUESTION.

The Rev. Bro. Portal asked when would be the proper time to present petitions relative to the Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada.

The Grand Master: The communication to be read from the M. W. Grand Master takes the precedence of every thing else.

The Grand Secretary then read a communication from the Grand Master, and said, that in laying it before the Grand Lodge, he had the Grand Master's commands to express his regret that he was compelled, by unavoidable circumstances, to be absent in the country. The paper was signed "Zetland, G.M.," and was as follows:—

"To the United Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

"Representations having been made to me, by memorial and otherwise, from Lodges and Brethren in some of the colonies, as to the great inconvenience experienced by them owing to the inevitable delay in obtaining Grand Lodge certificates, which occupies in some cases twelve months, while the payments required amount to a considerable sum; and further, some thinking that the interests of the Craft in such colonies would be greatly promoted if power were given to them to nominate, at stated periods, their own Prov. Grand Masters subject to the approval of the Grand Master:

"The Grand Master has taken these several matters into his consideration, and, after the most mature deliberation, is of opinion that some remedies ought to be applied to meet the alleged inconveniences. It is, however, proper here to observe, that the Grand Master feels the force of the allegation that these difficulties are experienced by all Lodges in the British colonies and settlements, as well as in foreign parts; and he is therefore desirous that some regulations should be made

to remove the difficulty, and to extend relief to all distant Lodges. The Grand Master therefore recommends, and submits to the consideration and decision of Grand Lodge the following plan and suggestions for alterations to be made in the laws of Supreme Grand Lodge, as will embrace and effect the objects he proposes:—"That the registration-fee for every duly initiated Brother be 7s. 6d., which sum will entitle the Brother to a Grand Lodge certificate. The registration-fee for Brethren joining one Lodge from another, to remain 2s. 6d. as at present, unless that Brother require a Grand-Lodge certificate, in which case the fee will be 7s. 6d.

"That each Lodge should make a return to Grand Lodge annually, together with the amount of the dues payable thereon, unless there be a Prov. Grand Master for the district, in which case the returns and payments shall be made to him, or to such persons as he may direct, he being responsible for the remittance of the same to the Grand Lodge of London.

"That the Prov. Grand Master shall distribute the Grand Lodge certificates, which will be forwarded to him for the purpose in blank. They will be filled up in due form, and countersigned by the Prov. Grand Master and Prov. Grand Sec., or in the event of the absence or illness of the Prov. Grand Master, by the Dep. Prov. Grand Master in his stead.

"That the returns and payments shall be made to the Prov. Grand Master, or to some Brother duly appointed by him, on his behalf, and the Lodge so paying shall immediately transmit to the Grand Secretary in London, a duplicate of such returns, signed by the Worshipful Master, the Secretary, and the Treasurer of the Lodge, specifying when, and by whom, and to whom, the returns and payments were made, with the names of those to whom the Prov. Grand Master has issued Grand Lodge certificates.

"And further, that the Prov. Grand Master shall, with all reasonable expedition, forward to the Grand Secretary all returns received from the several Lodges within his province or district, together with the amount of the dues, so that the Brethren may be duly registered, and the amounts placed to the account of the different Lodges.

"That as, on account of the distance of many of the Prov. Grand Lodges from London, it is impossible that the Grand Lodge can be aware of their proceedings, the Grand Master requires that every third year an account shall be rendered to him, detailing their proceedings and transaction, with a view of determining whether the interests of the Craft would be best promoted by the continuance in office of the Prov. Grand Master, should he be willing to do so, and the decision of the Grand Master will be communicated to the Prov. Grand Master, the Dep. Prov. Grand Master, or the Prov. Grand Secretary, for the information of the Prov. Grand Lodge. No new fees will be required on these occasions.

"By these means the Grand Master hopes that the good understanding so necessary to be preserved between the Prov. Grand Master and the Lodges under his jurisdiction, will be promoted, and the unity of the Craft maintained.

"With the view of providing for the event of the Prov. Grand Master's death, the Grand Master will deliver to each Province such a document as will empower the Dep. Prov. Grand Master to preside and act for such a limited period as will permit a successor being appointed, or any other necessary steps being taken. The alterations which the Grand Master proposes in order to effect these objects, are the following:—

"After Art. 26, at page 65, to add, 'In order to avoid delay, and for the accommodation of Lodges in the colonies and foreign parts for which a Prov. Grand Master is appointed' those Lodges may make their returns and payments to the Prov. Grand Master or such Brother as he may direct, but for the due remittance of which to the Grand Lodge the Prov. Grand Master shall be personally responsible; which Prov. Grand Master is thereupon to deliver Grand Lodge certificates which will be furnished to him for the purpose, and which

certificates are to be countersigned as specified at page 85.'

"When a return and payment has so been made to a Prov. Grand Master, or other Brother on his behalf, the Lodge making the same shall forthwith transmit to the Grand Secretary, in London, a duplicate of the return, signed by the Worshipful Master and the Secretary or Treasurer, specifying the date when and the party to whom the return and payment have been made, and also specifying for whom the Prov. Grand Master has issued certificates; and, further, the Prov. Grand Master shall immediately, or with all reasonable expedition, forward to the Grand Secretary the returns received from the several Lodges in his district, together with the amount payable thereon, so that the Brethren may be duly registered and the money placed to the credit of the respective Lodges in the Grand Treasurer's accounts.

"In Article 5, page 85, after the words 'Grand Secretary,' in the second line, to add the following:—'except in the British colonies and settlements, or foreign districts, for which a Prov. Grand Master is appointed, and to whom Grand Lodge certificates may be forwarded as hereafter mentioned.'

"And after the said Article 5 to add the following:—'The Grand Secretary be authorized to furnish to Prov. Grand Masters for colonies or foreign districts Grand Lodge certificates, signed and sealed, but in other respects to be left blank; the blanks being to be filled up by the Prov. Grand Master, or by his order, with the names and dates of the Brethren initiated, &c., by Lodges within his province or district, or of Brethren who shall join such Lodges as set forth in returns made to him; which Grand Lodge certificates shall be countersigned by the Prov. Grand Master, or his deputy, and by the Prov. Grand Secretary.

"To omit the word 'foreign' in the third line of the law register-fees, at page 107, and to add, after that law, the following:—'The registration fee for a Mason made in a colonial or foreign Lodge, 7s. 6d. sterling, which payment shall include the Grand Lodge certificate; the fee for a Brother joining any such Lodge, 2s. 6d., but if he require a Grand Lodge certificate; then the full fee of 7s. 6d. is to be paid.'

The Grand Secretary then said: Before any proposition is made on this subject, I may be permitted to comply with the Grand Master's wish, and just explain his views on some points. Some of the Prov. Grand Lodges wish to elect their own Prov. Grand Masters; Lord Zetland has already stated his views upon that subject, and informed us that he could not give his consent to such an alteration of the laws; but so far as he understands the complaints, many of them are founded on the difficulty they have in Prov. Grand Lodges of exercising any control; if the Prov. Grand Master choose to be dominant, the Prov. Grand Lodge has little opportunity, if any, of getting what they consider right done to them. The Grand Master therefore states that he will require from all distant Prov. Grand Lodges, at least once every three years, or oftener if desired, a detailed account of their proceedings, and that he will also require from the Prov. Grand Master a detailed account of what he has done during the period. The object of the Grand Master is, that if the Prov. Grand Lodge have any grievances between themselves and the Prov. Grand Master, it should be competent for them to enter into the subject and to record upon their minutes anything which they consider ought to be communicated to the Grand Master, in order that he may exercise the power he possesses of removing a Prov. Grand Master, if it appears that it would be for the benefit of the Craft for him to do so. But inasmuch as the Prov. Grand Master is supposed to be present at the Prov. Grand Lodge, either personally or by deputy, he would be informed of all their proceedings; and the Grand Master required from him also a detailed account of all that he shall have done during the preceding period, so that he will thus have an opportunity of answering any observation made in the resolutions passed by the Prov. Grand Lodge; and the Grand Master thinks that that will be such a check, and will give such