

for such arbitration may be proceeded with without delay.

"(Signed), JAMES DALLAS O'MEARA,  
"Chairman.

"Winnipeg, June 18th, 1878."

To the foregoing I replied:—

"WINNIPEG, June 19th, 1878.

"Rev Canon O'Meara, St. John's College,  
Manitoba:

"REV. DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication dated yesterday, and signed by yourself, as Chairman of a Committee—not named—alleged to have been appointed by certain Masons—not named—who have felt aggrieved, and, as they allege, unjustly dealt with in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, at its last Annual Communication.

"The object of the Committee, it is further alleged, is for the purpose of arranging in a satisfactory and peaceful manner the present serious difficulties existing within the Masonic jurisdiction of Manitoba, and for the healing of which they propose certain arrangements, to which they urge a specific reply at my earliest convenience, say within two weeks.

"I have to regret that my departure, to-day, for the west, prevents the possibility of returning a specific reply to the several propositions of the Committee, but I have no objection to the manner of settlement, provided the questions to be submitted be so prepared as to cover specifically the several points affecting the constitutionality of the official proceedings of the late Communication of Grand Lodge. If the result establishes that such proceedings were unconstitutional in any important particular, I sincerely promise to use every effort in my power to amend them, but to declare the entire proceedings of the Annual Communication void in consequence, would be, in my opinion, a stretch of my prerogative unjustifiable and indefensible.

"With this hurried explanation, I cheerfully name R. W. Bros. Harris and Belch to act with a similar number from among certain Masons who have felt themselves aggrieved, and with the understanding that the questions and proceedings shall be submitted to me and receive my sanction before transmission to the referees, whom I will hereafter select.

"In the hope and belief that this hurried reply will meet your expectation,

"I am, Rev. Sir and dear Brother,

"Yours fraternally,

"Geo. F. Newcomb.

"P. S.—In my haste, I have overlooked the *third* name, and will now add R. W. Bro. James Henderson to the list already given.

"I may also remark that in your selections you will, of course, guard against the

appointment of any from among those who left Grand Lodge contrary to my orders.

"Should you desire to communicate further upon the subject, it will be necessary to do so through the D. G. M., who assumes my duties during my absence from the Province. My address will be Little Saskatchewan P. O., and I have no doubt but that I shall be able to reply with some measure of promptness, which will also be with pleasure, in view of the indications which warrant a hope of a happy and satisfactory issue out of the difficulties alluded to.

"Yours, in haste,

"G. F. N."

The above being forwarded, I left the Province in the discharge of my official duties, and returned to Winnipeg on the 5th day of October.

On the 7th, I received a report from the D. G. M., stating that during my absence a copy of a petition had been forwarded to him, as Senior Grand Warden, requesting him to call a meeting of Grand Lodge, and that a similar petition had been sent to Past Deputy Grand Master Henderson, asking him, as D. G. M., to call a meeting of Grand Lodge. The following are the documents with the replies thereto:—

"WINNIPEG, 24th Aug., 1878.

"J. H. Bell, Esq., Grand Secretary Grand Lodge of Manitoba.

"DEAR SIR AND R. W. BRO.—I received a petition this a. m. from R. W. Bro. W. N. Kennedy. The enclosed is a copy (the original is held by W. N. K.). I enclose my reply, as you may want to put it on the records of your office. You will be kind enough to forward my reply to Bro. Kennedy, or return it to me this afternoon.

"Yours fraternally,

"(Signed)

JAMES HENDERSON,

"P. D. G. M. G. L. of M."

COPY SENT TO R. W. BRO. J. W. HARRIS.

"WHEREAS in their opinion the proceedings of the last Annual Communication of Grand Lodge were on many important points unconstitutional, and have caused great injury to the interests of Masonry in this Province, Therefore, your petitioners would respectfully request that in the absence of the M. W. Grand Master from the Province, you call and summon a communication of the Grand Lodge at as early a date as possible for the purpose of considering the constitutionality of the said proceedings, and of taking such action as may be considered necessary.

"(Signed by)

D. M. WALKER,

E. G. CONKLEN,

W. N. KENNEDY,

GEO. BLACK,

G. F. GARRUTHERS,  
and others."