

and suggests the propriety of a convention to discuss the subject. He says:—"The Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, recently established, was, like themselves, now a Grand Lodge of Canada, and how the difficulty would be eventually settled no one could foretell. * * * * *

The subject had occupied his attention day and night for a long time, and he believed that a convention of Masons from the different Provinces, to discuss the matter in a calm and dispassionate spirit, might result in such a solution of it, as would promote the interest of Masonry in British America, and he hoped that such a convention would soon be held."

At the same banquet, Deputy Grand Master A. A. Stevenson said that he was glad to be present for another reason, because he was afraid it was the last time they should all meet together. He feared that before another Anniversary there would be more than one Grand Lodge in Canada. He did not desire at this time to go into the argument on this subject, and he felt sure that if a separation came, the brethren of Lower Canada would part from those of this Province with the deepest sorrow; but the general feeling in the Province of Quebec and in Nova Scotia was that there should be an independent Grand Lodge in each Province. The Masons of Ontario would be able to get on very well should separation come, but those of Quebec would feel deeply the loss of their brethren in this Province.

Here we have the assurance of one of the most zealous Grand Lodge officers,—the then Deputy Grand Master, who so ably filled the office of President of the Board of General Purposes, for four years in succession, and whom the Grand Lodge rewarded for his zeal, talent and industry, by electing him Grand Master in July, 1868,—that what he, Bro. Bernard and Bro. Graham advocated in July, 1867, was endorsed generally not only by the brethren in Quebec but also by those in Nova Scotia, and had thus after a lapse of three months become his own firm convictions. And by this assurance the plan for a solution of the difficulty, just a few minutes before suggested by G. M. Wilson, was declared as not being in harmony with the views of two out of the four confederated Provinces, those two having already decided in the premises.

V. W. Bro. T. White, at said banquet, expressed the hope that his R. W. Bro. Stevenson had been somewhat precipitate in predicting so speedily a separation of the Grand Lodge. Proceeding further, we come to the letter of the celebrated Doctor Mcakey, who in reply to the letter addressed to him by G. M. Wilson and in answer to his questions, says that masonic and political territory is co-terminous; if a change be made in the political boundary there must be an equivalent change of masonic boundary. That the political union of the four provinces affects our Grand Lodge of Canada, to this extent, that we are no longer the Grand Lodge of Canada. Our locality being in the Province of Ontario, the Province of Quebec, which has been politically severed from us, now forms an occupied territory, and is open for the organization of a Grand Lodge of Quebec. That we ourselves will have to organize as a Grand Lodge of Ontario.

Now, this theory of "unoccupied territory" advanced by Dr. Mackey has been made the great stronghold of the Quebec brethren that advocate a separation; though the learned brother never gives any reason why the one-half of the territory originally comprised within the