

The accompanying document has reference in terms, to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West; but it embodies suggestions of main importance made by myself, principally on the subdivision of the existing Districts and the issuing of Warrants; and it may be assumed, therefore as applying to the Lodges in Canada generally.

Under these circumstances, and in view not only of the necessity for prompt action upon the subject matter of the document itself, but, so far as I am personally concerned, of my early withdrawal from my present office, it is my wish that you would cause the document and the communication to be generally printed and circulated for full information of the Lodges under my jurisdiction as well as of all English Masons; so that, at the next meeting of the Grand Lodge for this District, the Lodges and their representatives, and the members of the Grand Lodge, may come prepared with some definite plan or mode for meeting the Grand Master's suggestions, and for the immediate nomination of Provincial Grand Masters for the new Districts. I have taken upon myself to state my wish in respect of these nominations, because it is my persuasion that the recommended subdivisions, if approved in P. G. Lodge as well as the nominations, will meet with the immediate concurrence of the Grand Master. The District Lodges will be in a more independent and social connection with each other and much delay and annoyance will be thus avoided. My suggestion cannot but recommend itself to all the well-wishers of the craft who desire to maintain English connection, and, at once, not only relieve themselves from present difficulties, but tend, it is to be hoped, to renewed fraternal feeling, even among those who have estranged themselves from us.

It is not the least agreeable part of my duty to know that no hasty or imprudent action has been taken, either by myself, or the Grand Lodge, under the unpleasant differences which have existed, for nearly two years past. Forbearance has been reproached to me on one side, whilst not a little taunting has been thrown out on the other. The time has come, however, when it is seen that impatience and excitement would have been premature and culpable, and when, it is to be hoped, a general good feeling may prevail.

I have been compelled to allude to myself and my early resignation of office, which I have only retained to this time, with the view and in the hope of being entrusted with the announcement of some such measures as those submitted. The constant occupation, in other duties reminds me that my office should be filled by some one, not more zealous or more anxious for the interests of the craft, but who will have more time and better talents to apply to the performance of its duties. After upwards of 30 years, I may say, constantly and actively connected with the Institution,

I may think myself entitled to withdraw from the burden and heat of the day; and it will, therefore, be my purpose to announce to the Provincial Grand Lodge, at its next meeting, that my letter of resignation will accompany the report of its proceedings, to the Grand Master in England.

It is my desire, therefore, earnestly and forcibly to impress upon the Lodges the propriety of attending the next meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, fully prepared to make the necessary representations to the M. W. the Grand Master.

I have the honor to be,

V. W. Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

(Signed), W. BADGLEY, P. G. M.

Of Montreal and William Henry.

To

The V. W. Bro. J. O. MOFFATT,

Provincial Grand Secretary.

(A True Copy.)

OGILVY MOFFATT, P. G. Sec.

Provincial Grand Lodge,
District of Montreal & William Henry.
Montreal, 9th April, 1857.

V. W. & DEAR SIR & BROTHER,—By command of the R. W. the Provincial Grand Master of this District, I have the honor of transmitting copy of a statement made by the M. W., the Grand Master of England, the Earl of Zetland, to the United Grand Lodge, at the Quarterly Communication, held in London, on the 4th March last, with reference to the present position of Masonic affairs in Canada, and to it, as well as to the letter from the R. W. the Provincial Grand Master of the District accompanying the same, I have to request your particular and earnest attention and consideration.

I have the honor to be,

Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours truly & fraternally,

OGILVY MOFFATT,

P. G. Secy.

The old adage, that "drowning men catch at straws," is certainly exemplified to a considerable extent in the apparent avidity with which the expiring authorities—the Provincial G. M. and his Secretary, at least of the District of Montreal and William Henry, grasp at the gracious words uttered by the Grand Master at the March meeting of the Grand Lodge of England. His Lordship, indeed, said nothing about this or any other Provincial district except Canada West. But the P. G. M. seems to think, it may be assumed, that his remarks may have reference to Canada—generally. Supposing this to be the case, which is after all mere assumption, we can see no advantage which can result from it. The so-called concessions come too late, and are of too ambiguous and forced a character to avail any-

thing in the settlement of Canadian masonic affairs. In fact, no real concessions are proposed. Provincial Grand Lodges always had the right to recommend a brother for the office of Provincial Grand Master, and the Grand Master always had the power to do just what he now says he shall be ready to do—unless for causes which he shall be prepared to justify—to appoint such Brother. In this we have nothing new—no action of Grand Lodge—no change of law—no established policy—no binding future—Grand Masters—nothing at all worth a straw.

As to granting warrants, we cannot see that the slightest intimation is given that any such power will be allowed to Provincial Grand Lodges,—notwithstanding the ecstacy into which the bare mention of the thing seems to have thrown our Provincial Grand Master. Indeed, the Grand Master of England distinctly states that he will consent to no change of the established laws of Grand Lodge, and without such change Provincial Grand Lodges can never do more than they have always done—issue dispensations, but not warrants.

Placing in the hands of Provincial Grand Masters blank certificates to be used when required, would doubtless prove a convenience and one which colonial masons ought always to have enjoyed. No law, regulation, or anything else but a short-sighted policy has ever existed to prevent it.

Any advantage to Canadian masonry which might possibly arise from a diminution of Grand Lodge fees, would be more than counterbalanced by the proposed scheme of dividing the Province into a large number of districts. To think of such a scheme as applicable to Lower Canada is perfectly absurd. Neither the Provincial Grand Lodge of Montreal and William Henry, with about a dozen lodges, nor that of Quebec and Three Rivers, with three lodges, has ever been able to do more than barely pay the expenses of meeting once or twice a-year. To build masonic halls, establish masonic libraries, found asylums for the aged, infirm and helpless, or to do anything else which the benevolent spirit of masonry contemplates, was never thought of. We remember well, when an application to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Montreal and William Henry for the pitiful sum of £5, (a sum which several of the private lodges had advanced) for the relief of a poor widow and her three or four little orphans, was rejected on the ground of no funds. Where now, we ask, are the lodges to be found in this section of Canada, to make up the Provincial Grand Lodges, the organization of which the P. G. M. so strongly recommends? There are two, and two only—St. Paul's and Dorchester—which have not affiliated with the Grand Lodge of Canada, within the limits of this district; and there are three, and three only, within the limits of the District of Quebec and Three Rivers. How many Provincial Grand Lodges,