

Grand Master—to the Right Worshipful Brother William Jarvis; that upon the death of that R. W. Brother, no successor being appointed by the M. W. the Grand Master, dissensions had arisen in this Province among the Fraternity, and continued for many years, without a local governing power to restrain or check them. This was in a very great measure remedied by the appointment of Simon McGillivray, Esq., as Provincial Grand Master, who, on the 23rd of September, A. L. 5822, opened, by virtue of his Patent from the United Grand Lodge of England, a Provincial Grand Lodge at the City of Toronto. On his death the Provincial Grand Lodge fell into abeyance, and no Provincial Grand Lodge was thereafter formed until A. L. 5835, when a Patent was issued to R. W. Brother Sir Allan A. Macnab, under which this Provincial Grand Lodge is held.

"That the spread of the time-honoured institution of Freemasonry in this Province has been of a somewhat encouraging character, but upon the whole of a less cheering nature than the progress of Canada West in intelligence, wealth, and population might have warranted your Petitioners in anticipating.

"Among the emigration from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland into Canada there is a considerable number of indigent Brethren, who naturally on their arrival seek relief from the Lodges here. The benevolent funds are thus drained; and your Petitioners have no funds (without taxing the Brethren to an extent which would be far from prudent) which would enable the Masons of Canada West to raise any institution for the benefit of decayed and indigent worthy Brethren, or of the widows and orphans of Masons, and thereby follow the noble example set by our parent the United Grand Lodge of England. This want can be in a very great measure supplied by retaining in this Province not only the Fund of Benevolence which the Grand Lodge has already so generously granted, but also all Fees for Registration, Grand Lodge Certificates and Lodge Warrants.

"Therefore, as conducive to that end, and with a view of carrying out one of the primary objects of Masonry—that of being more extensively serviceable to our fellow-creatures—and as the sure means of spreading and cementing the interests of Masonry throughout the wide extent of this fast-growing Province—your Petitioners submit that the constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of England, as far as they relate to District Grand Lodges in Colonies, should be altered so as to allow the Lodges of Canada West, in Provincial Grand Lodge assembled, annually to elect their Provincial Grand Master, to control the working and operations of the Craft; and, through their Provincial Grand Master, to grant not only warrants to private Lodges, but, if necessary, authority to form Provincial or County Grand Lodges in this Province,—the United Grand Lodge of England still retaining and exercising a superior and governing power and jurisdiction over the Craft in this Province. Your Petitioners take this course, viewing the period not far distant when every County in Canada West will have its Provincial or County Grand Lodge.

"Should this the prayer of our Petition be granted, there is every reason to believe that the many Lodges in this Province working under the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland, would unite with this our Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, and your Petitioners submit that the influence of the United Grand Lodge of England might happily be exerted in inducing those Grand Lodges not to grant or issue any more Warrants to Lodges in Canada West, so that ere long the whole Craft in this Province may be united and cemented into one harmonious whole under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West.

"And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray."

B—Letter of Dep. Pro. Grand Master forwarding the above Petition.

"PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF UPPER CANADA, Toronto, Dec. 1, 1853.

"SIR AND BROTHER,—I have the honour to

transmit herewith the humble and respectful Petition of the Grand Lodge of this Province, as passed, adopted and approved, at three successive half-yearly meetings, as a matter of the greatest importance to the prosperity of Freemasonry in this Province, which I have the honour to request you will be pleased to lay before the Right Honorable the Earl of Zetland, M. W. Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons of England, and request that he will condescend to take the same into his mature consideration, and grant such relief as his wisdom may determine.

"Since the subject of the enclosed petition was fully matured in our Provincial Grand Lodge, there has been the long and protracted delay of eighteen months suffered to elapse, in order to give firmness and permanence to our proceedings, the result of which has been full confirmation thereof, as I have already mentioned, at three successive half-yearly meetings.

"There are urgent reasons at this time why there should be no longer delay, and that we pray for an early decision, it having come to our knowledge that several Lodges in the Province, including some Lodges acting under Warrants from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, have petitioned that Grand Lodge to grant them the same terms that we now ask, or else that they will congregate and establish an independent Canadian Grand Lodge, the existence of which we should deplore, as we wish to be, and remain, a great branch of the United Grand Lodge of England.

"I take this opportunity to enclose copies of my letters to you dated the 5th and 19th March last—the former containing a remittance of £35 4s., and the latter of £30 6s. 6d.—neither of which have yet been acknowledged, although we find on reference to the Bank that both bills were duly paid at Glyn's, last April. I beg most respectfully to crave your attention to these letters and to the several documents and warrants therein required, as we have suffered a good deal of annoyance by their non-arrival, from the inopportunities of the parties interested.

"I have the honour to be, Sir and Brother,

"Yours fraternally,

"THOMAS G. RIDOUT,

"D. P. G. M."

"WM. H. WHITE, Esq.,

"Grand Lodge of England, Freemasons' Hall,

"London.

#### C—Report of Special Committee of the United Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in England.

"TO THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES:—The Report of the Committee appointed by your Board to enquire into the Petition, Allegations and Statements made by or on behalf of certain Brethren of the Craft in the Province of Canada West.

"The Committee proceeded upon the said enquiry on Friday the 7th of September, instant, and having deemed it expedient to propound certain questions in writing to be answered by the Grand Secretary or the Officers in the Grand Secretary's Office, relating to the matters in question, the Committee adjourned on Friday the 21st of September instant, when after giving full consideration to the answers to such questions and the statements made to the Committee by the Grand Secretary, the Committee did—

"That Communication had been made to the Grand Secretary from certain Brethren in Canada West, requesting (that with a view to saving expense) the Warrants and Certificates should not be forwarded by post, but that they should be sent through Messrs. Baumbidge & Co., Merchants of London, who would take charge of the Documents and forward them in parcels with other things, directed to Mr. Hugh Scobie, of Toronto.

"That applications were made several times to Messrs. Bainbridge & Co., to ascertain when they would be sending out parcels in which such Warrants and Certificates could be included, and that on the last of such applications, the Messenger

was informed that Mr. Scobie was dead, and that therefore no further parcels could be forwarded addressed to him.

"That no communications were received in reference to such Warrants and Certificates which had been regularly made out ready to be forwarded, and would have been sent had it been known to whom they were to be directed.

"That further enquiries were made as to the means of sending out the said documents, and ultimately it was ascertained that they could be forwarded to Mr. William O'Neil Holmes, through Messrs. Foster, Porter & Co., of Wood Street, and that they were accordingly sent to him on the 14th of August, 1854.

"That the remittances referred to in the Petition were received in letters severally dated 5th and 19th of March, 1853, and respectively received on the 22nd March and 4th April, 1853; and the Committee regret to add that no proof was adduced to them of such remittances having been acknowledged, and no satisfactory reason suggested for the omission.

"That the Petition to the M. W. Grand Master from the said Brethren in Canada West appears to have been received on the 19th of December, 1853, but in consequence of his absence from town the same was not laid before him until the latter end of February, 1854.

"That no directions have been given on the subject of the said Petition, which remains unanswered to this time.

"That in regard to the prayer of the same Petition, asking that the Constitution of the United Grand Lodge of England should be altered in the way proposed by the said Petition—

"The Committee humbly submit that the expediency and propriety of rejecting or complying with the prayer thereof rests with the M. W. G. Master.

"The Committee lament that the omissions to acknowledge the remittances should have occurred, although they appear to have been regularly entered in the Books, and earnestly recommend that more attention and vigilance be observed in the office of the Grand Secretary for the future.

"(Signed)

G. BARRETT."

"Sept. 25th, 1855."

#### D—Extract from the Hamilton Gazette, November 8, 1855.

"The Meeting of Convention of the Masonic Lodges of Canada, working under the jurisdictions of England, Ireland, and Scotland, for the purpose of considering the expediency of establishing a Grand Lodge of Canada, appointed after the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, in July last, to be held in this city in the 10th October, assembled at the Masonic Hall, when the following Lodges were duly represented:—

##### "LIST OF LODGES REPRESENTED.

"Brockville Lodge, Brockville; Niagara, Niagara; Union, Grimsby; Norfolk, Simcoe; Nelson, Clarenceville; St. Andrews, St. Andrews; Golden Rule, Stansfeld; St. George's, Montreal; Zetland, Montreal; Barton, Hamilton; Dorchester, St. John's, C.E.; Prevost, Durham; St. George's, St. Catharines; Strict Observance, Hamilton; Amity, Dunville; Composite, Whitby; St. George's, London; King Solomon, Woodstock; St. Lawrence, Montreal; Great Western, Windsor; Acacia, Hamilton; Sheffield, Waterloo; Hoyle, Lacolle; St. John's, Hamilton; Independent, Quebec; Social and Military Virtues, Montreal; Wellington, Dunville; Hawkesbury, Hawkesbury; St. John's, London; King Hiram, Ingersoll; St. John's, Cayuga; St. Thomas, St. Thomas; Brant, Brantford; Vaughan, Vaughan; Wellington, Stratford; Harmony, Binbrook; Brighton, Brighton; St. Andrews, Quebec; King Solomon, Toronto; Prince Edward's, Picton; Thistle, Amherstburgh.

"V. W. Bro. C. Magill, (Mayor of the City,) was called upon to preside.

"V. W. Bro. Thomas B. Harris, was requested to act as Secretary.

"On the recommendation of a Committee ap-