

## FORMATION OF GRAND LODGE OF FREEMASONS.

A most important meeting of Freemasons was held on Monday evening in the banqueting room connected with the Freemasons' Hall, Flinders street. It was called by advertisement, signed by Bro. H. M. Addison, inviting the brethren of the three constitutions "to discuss a subject of the gravest importance concerning the progress of Freemasonry in this Province." About 180 brethren were present, including many holding high rank in the craft. Bro. H. C. Mais having been unanimously voted to the chair, Bro. H. M. Addison moved, "That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that a Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of South Australia should be formed, and that immediate steps be taken to that end." He said he approached the subject with some diffidence, on account of its being a matter of the gravest importance to the craft. The idea of forming a South Australian Grand Lodge was no new thing, as it had been discussed for some years past, and at the recent installations the subject had been frequently alluded to in terms of approbation, and the mention of it had always been received with demonstrations of applause. He hoped the vigorous action that would be taken that evening would prove that they were not premature in what they were about to undertake. He thought they were strong enough to run alone now after so many years of the fostering care of their Masonic parents, and not merely to run alone, but to run a winning race. They felt themselves men, and desired a laudable independence. He could not imagine a step which should better please the Grand Lodge of England than that which they wished to take. It would be most advisable that the three constitutions as at present existing in the colony should unite in the movement to form one Grand Lodge of South Australia.

The advantages of such a union would be self-government, freedom from taxation, and the combination of all South Australian Masons under one Grand Lodge. He thought the time was ripe for the movement, and that any objections which could be urged now might be urged with equal force in ten, twenty or fifty years hence. They would save expense and be better able to establish a benevolent fund.

Bro. Hugh Fraser seconded the motion in a forcible speech, and assured the brethren that the lodges in South Australia were worked as well, if not better, than those in the old country. Freemasonry was making great strides throughout the civilized world, and they should not be behind. He believed Freemasonry would greatly benefit by the formation of a Grand Lodge of South Australia.

Bro. W. Barlow disclaimed any intention of introducing elements of disharmony, but wished to move, as an amendment, the insertion after the word "formed" in the resolution the words "with the consent of the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland." He thought that courtesy was due to the Grand Lodges to which they had so long held allegiance and from which in years gone by they had had support and assistance. He sympathized with the idea of establishing a South Australian Grand Lodge, but thought the matter should first be referred to the Grand Lodges at home; if they refused their consent, the brethren here would be at liberty to form their own judgment.

Bro. John Lee seconded the amendment.

Bro. Dr. Seabrook replied that about three years ago the Grand Lodge of Scotland had been applied to and had intimated that they could not consent to the formation of a Grand Lodge of South Australia, but that if one were formed it would have their sympathy.

Bro. Downer, when in England