

THE CRAFTSMAN

AND BRITISH AMERICAN MASONIC RECORD.

Bro. T. & R. WHITE, Publishers.

"The Queen and the Craft."

{ \$1.50 PER ANNUM, in advance.

VOL. I.

HAMILTON, O., AUGUST, 1867.

NO. 12.

HISTORY OF MASONRY IN CANADA.—No. 3.

BY H. W. BRO. H. D. FOWLER, F. G. S. W.

(Continued.)

The following is a copy of the letter of instructions given to Bro. Laughton, and referred to by Bro. Dean in his communication to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England, dated 20th of Nov., 1821, both of which were laid before the Convention on the 11th Feb., 1822, and unanimously approved.

BATH, Nov. 1821.

"BRO. LAUGHTON.—I have received from Bro. Cushman a copy of your letter, dated London, 22nd May, 1821, concerning the business relative to the establishment of a Provincial Grand Lodge in this Province.

"I have prepared a communication to Edward Harper, Esq., Grand Secretary, upon the subject, which accompanies this, in which James Fitzgibbon, Esq., of York, is nominated for the office of Provincial Grand Master, and enclosed a copy of the old Grand Warrant, although, as it is in the hands of the Niagara party, I could not procure one which contains the title of the R. W. Grand Officers. In other respects I believe it is correct.

"It is the wish of the members of the convention that you should act as our agent in procuring a Grand Warrant, and as you are acquainted with the object and view in calling the convention, and with the general situation of affairs between the Brethren of York and Niagara, whatever information may be desired by the Grand Secretary or other officers of the United Grand Lodge, we wish you to give them.

"In your letter to Bro. Cushman, you did not inform him whether our petition had ever been laid before the M. W. Grand Master, or the Grand Lodge.

"This we consider a material point to ascertain, and for that purpose we wish you to spare no pains to obtain an interview with the Deputy Grand Master, or if possible to gain admission into the Grand Lodge for the purpose of ascertaining the precise proceedings in our case, if any, and if you find that our communications have never been laid before the Grand Lodge, we wish you to use all your interest to have it done, or to have the presiding officers made acquainted with our several communications and petitions, and particularly my last communication which accompanies this.

"There is a mystery in the business which must be developed. The amount of our Draft, remitted to the Grand Secretary, for £30 stg. has been paid, and we know not upon what principle our money has been received. The Draft is now in my

"hands, with the several endorsements, which of course shews the hands through which it has passed, but we wish to ascertain to what purpose our money was applied. I repeat there is a mystery in the business that I cannot fathom, and must entreat you to use every exertion to ascertain the true state of the business, and I presume you will be able to obtain an explanation that will prove satisfactory to all concerned.

"We wish you, immediately upon the receipt of this or as soon as you can make it convenient, to call upon the Grand Secretary and ascertain whether my communication of this date is received, and whether the copy of the Warrant enclosed is considered satisfactory, and if any obstacle appears pray lose no time in informing me what it is. I have mentioned in my communication to the Grand Secretary that we considered you as our authorized agent in this business.

"Should you not return soon after receiving this and gaining the necessary information, we wish you to inform us of your progress; but I am sanguine in the idea that if you return in the spring, you will be the bearer of a new warrant.

"In short, we wish you to do what you can for us in this business, and in doing so, you must be guided by your own judgment, as being on the spot you will know better what steps to take than we can direct, as our information upon the subject is very imperfect, and in acting for us you will consider yourself the authorized agent of the convention, and whatever expenses you may incur in transacting the business shall be paid you on your return. Feeling a confidence in your best exertions in our cause, I remain your friend and brother,

"(Signed,) JOHN DEAN,

Sec. of Convention.

The Grand Convention met for the fifth and last time on the 11th Feby, 1822. Present—

Z. M. Phillip, *President.*

Sam Shaw,

John Butterworth, } *Vice-Presidents.*

John Dean, *Secretary*

Robert Walker, *Treasurer.*

together with Representatives from the following 15 Lodges,

Brockville, No. 3.....Brockville.

St. John's, " 6.....Kingston.

Addington, " 13.....Bath.

St. John's, " 16.....York.

" 17.....Belleville.

" 19.....Haldimand.

Rideau, " 25.Rideau.

Union " 25Richmond.

McKay,Wolford.