

an application from the Master of a Lodge, and having no list of the Lodges working and entitled to the privilege, I granted the dispensation. It now appears that the particular Lodge was dormant; yet knowing this the Master applied for and obtained the dispensation; and although forbidden to do so by the County Master, who was cognizant of the facts, he conferred the degrees. Such conduct is most reprehensible, but proves that there should be some safeguard so as to prevent parties not entitled from fraudulently obtaining dispensations. In the future, if it meets the approval of this Right Worshipful Grand Lodge, I would suggest that no dispensations to confer degrees be granted by the Grand Master unless the application be approved by the District Master, and forwarded by him or the Grand Secretary.

THE INCORPORATION BILL.

It may, perhaps, be considered superfluous to refer to the fate the Orange Bill met at the last session of the Dominion Parliament, for most of you will have read the report of the Committee of the Grand Lodge of British America, to whom that Grand Lodge confided the duty of having the Bill brought before the House of Commons. The calm, dignified and logical statement of facts contained in that report cannot but carry conviction to the mind of every reasonable man. The fact to which I desire to draw attention, and which stands out prominently, is that the Bill was defeated by a coalition of the Protestant Reformers of Ontario with the Roman Catholic Bleus and Rouges of Quebec. Some one has written,

"Once to every man and nation
Comes the moment to decide,
In the strife, 'twixt truth and falsehood,
For the good or evil side."

And the reasons for the choice are as different no doubt as the minds of the persons who are called upon to make the election. That the Hon. E. Blake, in casting in his lot with the Church of Rome on this question, chose the "evil side," and most certainly the unjust side, no fair-minded man can deny. We were asking no special or extraordinary favour, but simply requesting that we should have accorded to us the right common to all British subjects, that of holding our own property. That this right should be denied us by men who profess the same religious views as we do is painfully humiliating, but that the hon. gentleman, the leader of the Opposition, with whom many Orangemen are in political sympathy, should have abused and vilified an organization to which no doubt his ancestors owed their personal safety, and who himself professed to be such an ardent Protestant, passes comprehension. He must have known when delivering his eloquent philippic against our beneficent institution that he was not stating facts, and that such facts as he did state were for his own purposes tortured out of all semblance to the original. That he chose the evil side for a purpose is patent to the most obtuse mind, and that such purpose was to alienate the French Bleus from the Conservative leader, and to ingratiate himself with the Roman Catholic Hierarchy is also quite evident. Now that the hon. gentleman has failed, and found that his hopes, like the mythical "apples of Sodom, though fair to look upon, were but dust and

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