



# CANADIAN MASONIC PIONEER

“Memor et Fidelis.”

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## GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

[From the London Freemason's Magazine.]

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION, *September 3, 1856.*—THE usual quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge of England was held in the Temple on Wednesday, September 3, at eight o'clock. Bro. Lewis, Prov. G.M. for Sumatra, being the oldest Prov. G.M. present, officiated as R. W. G. M., in the absence of the Right Hon. Bro. the Earl of Zetland, supported by the Hon. Bro. G. C. Anderson, Prov. G. M. for the Bahamas, as D. G. M.; Bro. B. B. Cabbell, Prov. G.M for Norfolk, as S. W.; Bro. Tooke, J. W.; the Hon. Bro. Dutton, M. P., Prov. G. M. for Gloucestershire; Bro. Bagshaw, Prov. G.M. for Essex; Bro. Col. Burlington, P. Prov. G. M. for Bengal; Bro. the Rev. S. J. W. Hayes, P. G. Chap.; the Rev. Edward Moore and J. E. Cox, G. Chaps.; Bro. W. H. White, G. Sec.; Bro. H. L. Crohn, G. Sec. German Correspondence; Bro. Walmisly, G. S. B.; R. W. Jennings, G.D.C.; T. Chapman, Assist. G.D.C.; Bros. Hervey, Parkinson, F. Paterson, White, Potter, P.G.Ds.; Bros Le Veau, Patten, Biggs, P.G.S.Bs., &c. &c.

### THE MINUTES.

The Grand Secretary read the minutes, with which was incorporated a revised report of the speech of the M.W. Grand Master, which extended to a considerable length. On the question of the confirmation of the minutes being put, Bro. H. G. Warren, P.M., No. 202, said, that before this question was put, he wished to call the attention of the Brethren to the fact that the G. Sec. had incorporated in the minutes a long speech of the M.W.G.M. on the last occasion. That speech was no part of the minutes, and they ought not to be asked to confirm it along with the minutes, more especially as it contained matter with which many of them disagreed, whereas all the other speeches, taking different views, were passed over. He had had some experience in the meetings of public companies and other associations, and he could only say that it was out of all order and precedent to insert such a speech in anything to be called minutes. Minutes ought only to record the resolutions come to by Grand Lodge. (Hear, hear.) It was very wrong to put them in the position of either confirming the G. M.'s speech along with the minutes, or of rejecting the minutes altogether—[hear, hear]; and he should therefore move, as an amendment, that the minutes be confirmed only so far as they related to the resolutions come to by Grand Lodge. [Loud applause.]

ever, been witnessed within the solemn and ceremonial precincts of the Supreme Grand Lodge of England. Bro. Warren was uproariously applauded; but the R. W. Grand Master, interrupting him in his observations, said he would not put the motion. It was irregular and disrespectful to the M. W. Grand Master.

Bro. Warren maintained he was perfectly in order; no speech could form a portion of the minutes. He had no intention of behaving disrespectfully towards the Grand Master, to whom he felt Grand Lodge were much indebted for having had his speech printed, but it could not form part of the minutes.

The R. W. Grand Master: You must put your amendment in writing before I can hear you.

Bro. Warren proceeded to the Secretary's table to do so, and a scene of great confusion ensued, in the course of which Bro. Jennings and other Brethren appeared to be offering suggestions to the Grand Master.

The R. W. the Grand Master [angrily]: "I am ruling here, and I don't want advice from anybody!" [Oh! oh! and loud expressions of indignant disapprobation.]

The Rev. Bro. G. R. Portal moved that the Lodge do now adjourn. This led to a scene of indescribable excitement and confusion, in the midst of which there were loud cries of "Motion!" "Motion?" from all parts of the room.

The Grand Master declared he would not put such a motion; and said, "Those of you who wish it, will be permitted to retire, and we will carry on the business of the Lodge without you."

It will easily be conceived that such language as this, and the vehement tone in which it was uttered, was not greatly calculated to allay the excited feeling which had before been exhibited. There, were, in fact, loud and angry expressions of disapprobation in all parts of the room.

Order having been partially restored,

Bro. Warren proceeded with his observations. The record of minutes, as read, he repeated, was a very proper document for circulation amongst the Brethren to inform them as to what had been done and what were the opinions of the Grand Master. He concluded by moving, "That the minutes be confirmed only so far as they related to motions made and carried the speech of the Grand Master being no legitimate part thereof."

Bro. Binckes seconded the motion. The Grand Master then called upon the Grand Secretary to explain how it was the speech came to be in the minutes.

Bro. White said this was not the first time such an occurrence had taken place. He had not acted on his own mere feeling in the matter. The Grand Master had before him the shorthand-writer's report of his speech, and having revised it, he returned it to him (Bro. White) for the purpose of putting it in the minutes. (Loud cries of "Divide!" "Divide!")

Bro Warren said he did not object to the speech as a mere matter of record, but he did object to being called upon to confirm it along with the minutes.

The S.G.W., Bro. Bond Cabbell, contended that they were not asked to confirm the speech of the Grand Master, which was a mere matter of record, as part of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge on the occasion referred to. Confirmation did not apply to it. The effect of Bro. Warren's motion would be, to expunge that speech from the minutes. No Brother ought to make a proposition of that kind. They were only asked to confirm what had been read as an accurate account of what had taken place in Grand Lodge; they were not asked to confirm the sentiments contained in the speech. (Loud cries of "Divide!" "Divide!")

Bro. Harris, of No. 1, said he had never addressed the Grand Lodge, and had not intended to do so on that occasion; but he must confess that rather than see the independent sentiments of the Brethren thus ridden roughshod over by ever so worthy a Brother in the chair representing the Grand Master of Masons, he would walk out of that room and denude himself once and for ever of his Masonic clothing and Masonic functions. [Applause.] He had never before lifted up his voice in that Grand Lodge, and he would not have done so then but for the conduct of the then representative of the G. M. who had interrupted and arbitrarily put down every Brother. [Hear, hear! and loud cries of "Oh!" and "Question!"] He would speak to the question; the question was, whether the Brethren would submit to that kind of thing? [Hear, hear! and loud applause.]

The Grand Master [warmly]: "We are on the question of the confirmation or non-confirmation of the minutes."

Bro. Harris: "Well, then, I will speak to that question."

The Grand Master [energetically using his gavel]: "Brother, I have called you to order once, and—"

Bro. Harris: "No you have not." [Hear! and loud laughter.]

The Grand Master [emphatically]: "I have; and I beg to inform you, that if I have to call you to order more than twice, I shall exercise my

Here, followed a scene such as has rarely, if