

view that the Confederation Act affected the position and standing of the Grand Lodge of Canada, have been led to the conclusion that that political change did not affect the status or position of the same. He then ably argues that point, and he forcibly shows why he considers a separation is expedient.

No doubt it is greatly to be regretted that those eminent brethren, referred to by the Grand Master, did not deem it necessary to remove erroneous impressions by publishing the change of their views, and the reasons which led them to arrive at a different conclusion.

That elaborate address was submitted to a large committee to report thereon. The committee, in their report, declare the Province of Quebec masonically occupied territory, and still under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada; they condemn the action of those brethren who have presumed to form a Grand Lodge for Quebec; they recommend a prohibition of masonic communication with those brethren, and that those who fail to return to their former allegiance be summoned before Grand Lodge in July, 1870, to show cause why they should not be expelled. The committee confirms the acts of the Grand Master, and expresses a hope that the seceding brethren will return.

Grand Lodge adopts that report, clause by clause: partly unanimously, partly by a majority of votes. Several protests, and an appeal against the suspensions inflicted by the Grand Master, were read; but the Grand Master ruled that no appeal against any of his acts could be made to Grand Lodge. This startling and autocrat ruling has been fully commented upon in *THE CRAFTSMAN*, page 140, and *Gavel*, page 51. The brethren, immediately affected by that ruling which deprived them of what they considered their inherent and individual rights, felt so deeply offended that they, together with many of the Quebec brethren, who deeply sympathize with them, appear to be irretrievably lost to the cause of the Grand Lodge of Canada—thus widening the gulph that already had grown to such magnitude; while, on the other hand, that ruling did not fail to diminish the Grand Master's popularity among his Ontario brethren.

Grand Lodge was closed, and many of the Ontario brethren expressed their disappointment and regret that so important a meeting had terminated without having heard both sides of the question. Suspensions were continued over the heads of many of the most able, zealous and distinguished Masons that ever occupied a position in the Grand Lodge of Canada, and that for a cause on which, to say the least, a difference of opinion exists, for an act—i. e., signing their names to a circular convening a meeting for taking into consideration the then state of Freemasonry in Quebec, and to proceed, if so directed, to the formation of a Grand Lodge for Quebec—which act by many was considered rebellious, while others, equally eminent, declared that act perfectly legitimate. Would any impartial observer conclude that such a treatment will tend to heal the break that had taken place, to smoothe the way for an amicable settlement, to allay the wounded feelings? Never!

The masonic press in Britain, in the United States, and in Canada, soon was heard on this subject, and many unequivocal opinions were given. One Grand Lodge at once acknowledged the new Grand Lodge of Quebec; several Lodges in the Province of Quebec gained the