

permission to go after the proxy of Lisgar Lodge, which document, he stated, was "left in another coat." He then retired under permission, and when he was leaving the Lodge Room the Senior Grand Warden—and Chairman of the Committee on Credentials—sent me up the proxy referred to, which, he stated had been in his possession since the early part of the Communication. This document showed that M. W. Bro. George Black—not Conklin—was appointed proxy for Lisgar Lodge.

While the election was going on, Bro. Conklin returned—but not with the proxy—in company with other Brethren, who were followed soon after by others. These interruptions necessitated a distribution of the ballots a third time, and I then ordered the Grand Tyler to admit none after the ballots had been spread until that election was declared.

The election of Grand Master having been declared, the ballots were spread, and ordered to be collected, for the Deputy Grand Master, when Bro. Conklin left his station, went to the tyled door, peeped through the wicket into the ante-room, returned to his station, and stated that some Brethren were in the ante-room who wished to enter (how Bro. Conklin knew they wished to enter can only be surmised, as they had made no announcement.) I ruled that they could not be admitted at that stage of the ballot, whereupon Bros Geo. Black and Geo. F. Carruthers asked permission to retire, which being refused, Bro. Carruthers stated "Well, I'm going any way," and after the door had been forced by M. W. Bro. George Black, he and Bros. Walker, Conklin, Villiers, Dr. D. Young, Hursell, Bradley, and Col. J. Kennedy immediately followed and retired, except Bros. F. T. Bradley and Col. John Kennedy, who asked if I would not allow them to retire, and when I replied emphatically in the negative, they resumed their seats.

At this juncture, the Brethren who left the room created so much noise in the ante-room, and disturbed the Grand Lodge so much that Bro. Bradley, a Justice of the Peace, and Bro. D. B. Murray, Chief of Police, retired under my permission to secure order. This being done, and after characterizing the offending Brethren in fitting terms, the election of officers was resumed, the ordinary business of the session concluded, and the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge terminated in harmony.

Soon after the close of Grand Lodge, I accepted an invitation to meet Bros. W. N. Kennedy, Rev. Canon O'Meara, and Rev. L. P. Matheson, at the office of the former, in the early part of the evening of the 18th of June, when, at their request, I promised to "stay" all proceedings against the offend-

ing Brethren until I should return from the Little Saskatchewan, to which place I was about to go for three months. At this interview certain suggestions were made, concerning which, to prevent the possibility of any misunderstanding, I requested to be put in writing.

Having, at that interview, promised to stay all proceedings against the offenders until I returned, I acquainted the D. G. M. accordingly, that he might not deal with them during my absence. In doing so, it was, of course, understood by me that any action they might have intended was also suspended. But I was disappointed. Bro. W. N. Kennedy, at a meeting of Lisgar Lodge, six days after, accepted the appointment of delegate to protest against the proceedings of the last Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, and witnessed the passage of a disloyal motion in that direction. How this Brother can justify his conduct with his O. B., as Past Master, I cannot explain.

About 11 o'clock, on the evening of the 18th June, I received at the hand of Bro. W. N. Kennedy, a letter, of which the following is a copy:—

*"Geo. F. Newcomb, M. W. G. M. G. L. of Manitoba:*

"We, the members of a Committee appointed by certain Masons, who have felt themselves aggrieved and unjustly dealt with in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, at its last session, for the purpose of arriving at some method of arranging in a satisfactory and peaceful manner the present serious difficulties existing within the Masonic jurisdiction of Manitoba, beg leave to propose the following arrangements:—

"1. That three delegates from both sides be appointed to draw up a series of general questions upon Masonic law, bearing on the alleged unconstitutionality in the proceedings of the last session of Grand Lodge.

"2. That these questions be submitted to the judgment of three Grand Masters, one, or more, to be of Canadian Grand Lodge.

"3. That should the majority of such arbitration pronounce that any of the proceedings of the last session of Grand Lodge were in any important point unconstitutional, that the Grand Master officially declare that the last session of Grand Lodge, having been pronounced unconstitutional, he would declare it void, and call, within the period of six weeks, a Communication of Grand Lodge, upon precisely the same basis of representation as that which prevailed at the last session.

"We would respectfully urge the great necessity of an explicit reply at your earliest convenience, if possible, within the next fortnight, in order that the arrangements