

members are slightly heated by the speakers.

In my paper for May 15, 1856, I gave a portrait of Grand Master Wilson with the following editorial remarks: "He is the active participant in the labors and first man in the trials of Masonic life. On the 11th October, 1855, he was elected by the representatives of 41 lodges, to be first Grand Master of the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada. No subject is before the fraternity, this year, of half the importance of this question. No question has arisen in this age in which more serious principles are involved than the inquiry "can a Grand Lodge perpetually and dictatorially control its subordinates in other provinces when they become sufficiently numerous and respectable to govern themselves."

In 1858, matters stood in this way. The Grand Lodge of Scotland had appointed Bro. Kivas Tully (happily still on the perpendicular) its representative to the Grand Lodge of Canada. A very large majority of the American Grand Lodge had done the same. Scotland had joined in, but the United Grand Lodge of England seemed obstinately bent upon refusal. It was said afterwards that the English Craft knew little of what was going on, the complaints and appeals from Canada being smothered in the office of the Grand Secretary. Yet they authorized the lodges lower down the river to make a rival Grand Lodge or a Provincial Grand Lodge, practically independent, and much ill-feeling grew out of it. Some strong men, such as Harington, McLeod Moore, and others, headed the conservatives, and there was a prospect of a long and unfraternal contest.

In the winter of that year (1858) I wrote long and confidential letters to Hon. Philip C. Tucker, Grand Master of Vermont, a man with a clear brain, large experience, strong convictions and profound knowledge of Masonic law, and urged upon him that the scandal affected the whole

Craft. Finding that he was in accord with me, and that the rival Grand Lodges were to assemble the same day at Toronto, in June, we agreed to meet them and try what fraternal counsel could do. The leaders of both bodies welcomed us with effusion. A conference of three brethren of each side was called in my bed room, and sitting round upon the trunks and bed rail, the terms of union were suggested and strongly enforced by Judge Tucker. My part was to assure them, upon the strength of my familiar acquaintance with American Masons, that such a union would be endorsed on our side of the lakes and that, in my opinion, the problem of Canadian independence would be thus solved, once and forever. The two committees shook hands over it. I made two pencil copies of the plan, and going into the Wilson Grand Lodge heard it read and adopted unanimously, and with cheers. It was now night. After supper, I went into the MacNabb (or rival) Grand Lodge, and found them slower to move—but the arguments of conciliation prevailed, and before midnight the terms of union were adopted without a change.

"Strike while the iron is hot," was the motto, and presently a procession was formed, led by Sir Allan MacNabb and climbed, 180 strong, up the four flights of steps to the apartment where such a welcome awaited them, so royal, so heart-felt, so thorough as to move the participants to tears. As they entered, the two Grand Masters joined hands and walked to the dais side by side. The constituents of the two bodies were intermingled, two and two, and so stood, while acclamations repeated again and again, shook the house. Hours after midnight, the voices of eloquent brethren expressed the general joy that peace and union would henceforth bless the Canadian Craft.

The next evening, a Masonic banquet was given at one of the leading hotels, and many of the best speakers of Canada were present. Judge Tuck-