

thus so well founded, our choice of his "Face" to fill this niche would have commended itself to all our readers, even though the universal interest manifested in the movement, of which he is the head, had not called special attention to his name. No subject is before the fraternity of this year of half the importance of this. No question has arisen in this age in which more serious principles are involved than the enquiry, can a Grand Lodge perpetually and dictatorially control its subordinates in other provinces when they become sufficiently numerous and respectable to govern themselves.

The first Annual Meeting of "the Grand Lodge of ancient free and accepted Masons of Canada," was held at the city of Hamilton, the 9th July last, and two following days. The attendance from the subordinate lodges was very large, considerably over one hundred ballots having been thrown for officers. The entire extent of territory from Stanstead eastward, to Amherstburgh westward, was represented, many of the brethren travelled a distance of more than 600 miles to be present. How different this from the former state of things. We have known Provincial Grand Lodges under the old regime unable to proceed to business for want of a *quorum*, until the whipper in of the P. G. M. had hunted up and induced to be present one or more office holders, who, up to that moment, probably never so much as know he or they were "worshipful brethren." We congratulate the craft upon this change for the better, a healthy state of things now exists. We have "the right men in the right places," and freemasonry in Canada is consequently receiving an impetus it never before experienced.

Much very important business was transacted at Hamilton. Warrants for nine new lodges were granted, the constitution adopted in October last and which from the hurried manner in which it was concocted was necessarily imperfect, was carefully and thoroughly revised, and we believe the Canadian masons now possess as good a written Constitution as can any where be produced. The elective and ballot principles have been generally adopted, favoritism and the system of appointment to office for life of unfit persons, has been totally abolished; in fact all the grievances under which we have heretofore suffered, and which have hitherto been but an incubus on masonry here, have been swept away. Most of our readers will be glad to learn that amongst other improvements, it is now permitted to lodges to be represented at future meetings of the Grand Lodge by proxy. No brother below the rank of legal representative being eligible to serve as proxy or to represent more than three lodges, each lodge being entitled to three votes. There are many other important changes effected in our Constitution which we cannot now enumerate, nor, indeed, is it necessary to do so as each lodge will, in the course of a few days be put in possession of a sufficient number of printed copies of the amended Constitution to supply its members.

We entreat our brothers to carefully read and inwardly digest it so that every brother hailing from the Grand Lodge of Canada, may be a bright mason and well instructed in the duties, he owes not alone to his own lodge, but to the craft in general.

What have they done with the money. (To the Editor of the MASONIC PIONEER.)

Dear Sir and Brother,—I am not a very "old mason" but have been a member of the craft long enough to learn "a thing or two," one thing, however, I have not been able to learn, and that is, what has been done with the money which was paid by the Lodges in the District of Montreal and William Henry, during a long series of years, into the treasury of the Provincial Grand Lodge. Before you Canada Grand Lodge folks left my Lodge almost alone, there were nearly a dozen Lodges in the District, whose aggregate annual payments, must have amounted to a considerable sum. The money was not spent in building a Masonic Hall. Nor in founding an Asylum or School. Nor does it seem to have been spent in festivals, or in relieving the poor. The question is often asked, what has been done with it? and I am sure many of your readers will be gratified, if you can enlighten them on this subject.

I have the honor to be,

Sir and brother,

A MEMBER OF ST. PAUL'S LODGE.

Montreal, 26th July, 1856.

[We are totally unable to give our correspondent the information he asks. One thing we know, that no account of receipts and disbursements was ever furnished to the private Lodges in the district. And, during the time we had the honor of being a member of the Provincial Grand Lodge, it was utterly impossible to get a statement of its affairs or to obtain any light whatever on the subject. We would refer our correspondent to some of the members of his own Lodge. Among them he will find the Provincial Grand Master and his Deputy, the Secretary, Registrar and Treasurer, and if he fails in getting from them the information he requires, he will only share the fate which others have experienced before him. If he does obtain it, he will be kind enough to "let us know."

ED. M. P.]

There are in the district of Montreal and William Henry, two Lodges still under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, viz:—"St. Pauls," and "Dorchester." A majority of the members of the latter, however, are in favor of affiliation with the Grand Lodge of Canada. While there are under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in the same district, twelve Lodges, viz:—"St. George's," "Zetland," "Social and Military Virtues," "Jacques Cartier," "St. Andrews," "Nelson," "Hoyle," "Prevost," "Shefford," "Golden Rule," "St. Francis" and "Victoria."

The Union Lodge, Grimsby.

The members of this ancient lodge met together on the festival of St. John the Baptist, in their new and elegant Hall, at 2 o'clock.

After the installation of the W. M. elect and the appointment and investiture of the other officers, a procession was formed and the brethren walked to St. Andrews Church, Grimsby, where prayers were said and a sermon preached by R. W. Bro. the Rev. Dr. Lundy, Rector of the parish, P. M. of the lodge and Past Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Canada. The brethren dined together in the evening and separated at an early hour, having passed a most harmonious day.

This meeting was rendered more than usually interesting by the presence of two aged and worthy freemasons, brothers William Lawrence and Alexander Millmine, the former of whom was initiated in Union Lodge, in the year 1803, and the latter was its W. M. in 1825 and 1828.

The officers for the current year are:—

W. bro. John Wesley Lewis, W. M.,
R. W. bro. the Rev. Dr. Lundy, P. M.
Brother John S. Walker, S. W.

" Andrew Randall, J. W.

" James M. Fairwell, Treasurer.

" John T. Parker, Secretary.

" George Vandyke, S. D.

" Ira S. Bush, J. D.

" Robert Byrns, J. G.

" George Masson, D. C.

" William Jeffery, }
" David McCarty, } Stewards.

" John Collaton, Tyler.

The first warrant of the Union Lodge is dated 20th November, 1799, and its minutes have been carefully preserved from that period to the festival of St. John the Baptist, 1827. The lodge was then dormant for 27 years and revived on 4th May 1854, since which period the numbers of its members has increased sixfold.

The Masonic Hall at Nashville, Tennessee, was destroyed by fire on the 9th of July. Loss \$10,000. Insured for \$5,000.

The next Annual Meeting of the Grand Lodge of Canada, will be held in Montreal, on the 2nd Wednesday in July, 1857.

GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF N. Y.—At the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the most ancient and honorable fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, held at the Grand Lodge Room, in the city of New York, on the 5th day of June, A. L., 5856, the following Brethren were duly elected Grand Officers for the ensuing year and subsequently installed and proclaimed as such, viz: The M. W. John L. Lewis, jr, Grand Master; the Rt. W. R. Macoy, D. G. Master; the Rt. W. F. M. King, Senior G. Warden; the Rt. W. James Hydey, Junior G. Warden; the Rt. W. Charles L. Church, Grand Treasurer; the Rt. W. James St. Austin; Grand Secretary.