

A REVIEW OF THE SCHISM.

[Communicated.]

The first official remarks made in regard to probable changes in the territory and jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, may be said to be contained in the address of Grand Master Simpson, in July 1866, at Montreal. The eminent brother, while referring to the Confederation of the B. N. A. Provinces, approved of the idea of a General Grand Lodge, having Provincial Grand Lodges in each Province, and concludes his remarks on this subject with the following :—

"Before closing this part of my address, I would draw your attention to the important fact that so soon as the Confederation of these Provinces takes place, the Grand Lodge of Canada is necessarily placed in precisely the same position in regard to the Sister Provinces as the Grand Lodge of England, Ireland and Scotland, and may, at any time, erect Lodges in either of them."

Thereby declaring it as a fact that the act of Confederation, which was a political change, did effect the status or position of the Grand Lodge of Canada, inasmuch that it allowed that body to erect lodges in Nova Scotia and in New Brunswick; which, before the Confederation, it could not do. The Board of General Purposes, to whom the subject of the Grand Master's address was referred, reported favorably upon the suggestion of a General Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodges. The report of that Board being unanimously adopted by Grand Lodge, it follows, as a natural consequence, that the whole Grand Lodge concurred in that part of the Grand Master's address.

The following year, in July 1867, Grand Master Wilson, in his able address, says:—

"The new state of political existence upon which we are now entering, necessarily brings up for our consideration the effect which it must, to some extent, have upon our position as a Grand Lodge. The name by which for many years we have been known and recognized in the Masonic world becomes now, it is claimed, a misnomer. The Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, which has supreme authority in that section of the New Dominion, is as much a Grand Lodge of Canada as we ourselves are."

This eminent brother also acknowledges that the political change brought about by Confederation affects the status and position of the Grand Lodge of Canada, thus endorsing the closing remarks of his esteemed predecessor. That part of G. M. Wilson's address having reference to a Grand Lodge for the Dominion was referred to a special Committee, consisting of M. W. Bros. Harington, Simpson, Bernard and himself, R. W. Bro. Stevenson, Graham and Moffat. This Committee, by the casting vote of the chairman, reported in favor of a Dominion Grand Lodge, while Bros. Bernard, Stevenson and Graham had voted in favor of a Grand Lodge for each of the four Provinces.

Grand Lodge adopted that report, and resolved that further discussion on that subject be postponed until the next Annual Communication. At the banquet in Hamilton, 10th October, 1867, Grand Master Wilson, in his speech, again acknowledges the change in the status and position of the Grand Lodge of Canada, by the political act of Confederation,