

or necessary to make even such alterations as were made here about three years ago. This would, in my humble opinion, be placing the fate and destiny of Grand Lodges in the hands of men who may not even be members of our order. Look at the question from another point of view. Suppose the Local Governments and Legislatures of these four Provinces to be abolished, and the business of the Dominion to be entrusted to only one Government—a mere Legislative Union in fact—would it be necessary, then, (or possible, if necessary) to disorganize the Grand Lodges existing at that time within the Dominion, and form only one Grand Lodge for the entire territory? Certainly not. Yet this is the exact converse of the proposition so boldly advanced, and so strenuously urged by many well-intentioned, though, in my judgment, mistaken brethren.

A retrospect of the two years during which I have had the high honour of presiding over the Grand Lodge of Canada, calls up in my mind mingled feelings of joy and sadness. The calm sunshine, which for a time shed its hallowed influence upon our peaceful path, was, at a later period, followed by a pelting storm, which yet darkens the horizon. Yet, under every variety of circumstances, I have had the kindly counsel and earnest support of many true brethren, and to their credit be it said, that the labours and responsibilities of office have often been lightened and lessened by the active assistance so readily rendered, and the cheering sympathy so opportunely offered, by many of those whom I have now the privilege of addressing.

In resigning into your hands the Gavel, with which I was entrusted at the last annual Communication of this Grand Lodge, I can truly say, that although conscious of much unworthiness, and deeply sensible of numerous imperfections, yet I have always endeavoured to discharge the duties of my position faithfully and conscientiously, whether those duties were of a pleasant or of a painful nature; and in divesting myself of the clothing appertaining to the office of Grand Master, permit me to indulge the hope, that in time to come I may be ever encompassed with the broad mantle of your masonic charity.

A. A. STEVENSON, Grand Master.

The reading of the address was frequently warmly applauded, and at its close the manifestation of approbation was loud, and long continued.

R. W. Bro. KALN, moved that the address be referred to the Board of General Purposes, except that portion referring to the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, which portion should be referred to a special committee, consisting of M. W. Bros. Wilson, Harington and Bernard; R. W. Bros. Klotz, De Grassi, and Thompson Wilson; V. W. Bros. John Clark, D. Spry, Harding, C. D. Macdonnell, Bowman, Toms, Diamond, Dunn, Noel, White, Elliott, Billington, Kincaid, Wright, and the mover.

R. W. Bro. MACPHERSON moved in amendment that the special committee be appointed by the M. W. the Grand Master.

A very long discussion ensued, when

V. W. Bro. WHITE moved, in amendment to the amendment, that the report of the M. W. the Grand Master be referred to the Board of General Purposes, with instructions to report upon that part referring to the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, at the meeting of Grand Lodge to-morrow, it being understood that the Board have their report printed for the use of members, on its presentation to Grand Lodge.

This amendment was finally carried by an almost unanimous vote,—a significant lesson to those who so far forget what is due to Grand Lodge as to summon secret meetings to influence its proceedings.

Several distinguished visitors from the Grand Lodge of New York, including R. W. Bros. C. E. Young, G. J. D., W. J. McCredie, P. D. D. G. M., and John A. Lockwood, P. D. D. G. M.; and W. Bros. W. H. Dee, H. Kleim, John E. Andrews, H. B. McCullough, S. L. Watson, and J. B. King, were received with Grand Honours, and introduced to Grand Lodge.