

"always been exercised by the Provincial Grand Masters of Colonial Grand Lodges, who have hitherto granted dispensations for the holding of new Lodges, Warrants for which are never refused; this is a matter, however, together with that regarding fees, which may properly be left to the Colonial Board, who will advise us on the matter."

7.—"Some representations have reached me upon the subject of subdividing the Districts of Canada, and I am inclined to think that, from the extent of the Province, the number of the Lodges, and the distance of many of them, from any one central situation, that it would be advisable to divide it. I have received a communication from the Provincial Grand Master of Quebec, and several Petitions on this subject, and I may state that it is my intention, after consulting, with Brethren on the spot, to take steps to subdivide the district, and to appoint other Provincial Grand Masters, so that every Lodge, in the Canadas, shall be within reasonable distance of its Provincial Grand Lodge."

8.—"There is one point more to which I must refer, namely, to the demand that the Provincial Grand Master of Canada shall be empowered to appoint subordinate Prov. G. Masters and Provincial Grand Lodges; this, I at once say, I cannot consent to. The appointment of Provincial Grand Master ever has been, and, in my opinion, ought ever to remain a part of the prerogative of the Grand Master for the time being, just as the appointment of Officers rests with the Masters of all private Lodges. I have already stated, that I have determined on further subdividing the Canadian Districts and I shall not be slow in listening to the expressed wishes of the Brethren, as to the appointment of a Provincial Grand Master, who will be acceptable to them. I may here remark, that this determination has not been come to, without mature consideration, and I can appeal to at least one Member of Grand Lodge, who takes a great interest in this question, as to the fact of having expressed to him my intention to take this course, so long ago as the 3rd of January last."

9.—"I believe that by this concession, I shall not have derogated from those powers and privileges which I have received from you. My object has been, and that, from no selfish motive, to preserve them—I am equally sure that you have no wish to invade them. The maintenance of their allegiance, by the Canadian Masons, is to be desired and is quite as much for their advantage as for ours. I believe that the plan I have proposed, and the concessions which I have expressed my willingness to make, will be satisfactory, both to you and to our Canadian Brethren. I thought it better to

"make this announcement to you at the present moment, as I trust it will be the means of bringing the matter to an amicable termination and will save any protracted discussion in Grand Lodge. I have, I repeat, given the matter my anxious and attentive consideration. I think that under the circumstances you may safely trust that the appointment of Provincial Grand Master will be settled by me, to the satisfaction of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada, and the affairs will be carried out by the Colonial Board."

10.—"I trust that I have done justice. I repeat my regret that the matter has not been settled before, and I know that I may rely in full confidence on that support, which you have never yet withheld from me, in the endeavor to discharge my duty as your Grand Master."

I have further to inform you that this communication of the Grand Master was received by a Grand Lodge, of larger than usual numbers with great satisfaction and acclamation.

The Grand Master's object in making this communication arises from his desire, that no time should be lost in your being made acquainted with his views, in order that the Canadian Masons may have the earliest opportunity of availing themselves of the advantages sought to be conveyed to them by the proposed concessions offered by His Lordship, or to make any suggestions or observations which they may be desirous of submitting to him.

The Grand Master further commands me to state, that the arrangements which he has made for the future conduct of the correspondence and communication of Colonial Lodges, are such as will secure to them, for the future, a prompt and effectual attention.

The Grand Master directs me to echo the expressions contained in paragraph 9, and to state to you the earnest hope that the concession he has made to the wishes of the Colonial Brethren, will be not only acceptable to them, and be the means of allaying those feelings of irritation which have naturally arisen, but may also be the means of bringing back to their allegiance those Lodges, which, he cannot but think, have lost sight of their best interests in severing themselves from the protection of the Grand Lodge of England.

At a later period of the evening, the memorial which had been entrusted to Brother, The Rev. G. R. Portal, was presented to Grand Lodge. No discussion took place thereon, it being unanimously agreed, upon the motion Brother Portal, seconded by Lord Panmure, that, after the announcement which the Grand Master had been pleased to make, the memorial should be referred to the Colonial Board.

I have to request that you will communicate to me, with as little delay as possible, any general suggestions you may desire to

make, together with your views in reference to carrying out the desire by the Grand Master, in paragraph 7.

I have the honor to be fraternally,

R. W. Prov. Grand Master.

Your obedient Servant and Brother,
WILLIAM H. WHITE, G. S.

To the Honorable

WILLIAM BADGLEY,

Provincial Grand Master, Montreal.

QUEBEC, 3rd April, 1857.

MY DEAR GRAND SECRETARY,—The accompanying document reached me by this evening's mail, and its importance is so great that I hasten to transmit it to you for communication to the Lodges in the District. It is gratifying to perceive that the M. W. Grand Master is actuated by every proper Masonic feeling consistent with the high position and responsibilities of his office; but, at the same time, is prompted by a very considerate and proper feeling in connection and intercourse with his Canadian Brethren, exemplified in the determination expressed in his address to Grand Lodge, on the 4th ultimo. With the solitary exception of consenting to the appointment of an Independent Grand Master for the Province, in which, of course, was involved that of the appointment of subordinate Provincial Grand Lodges and Masters, the Grand Master appears to have conceded, and will sanction the concession, to the Canadian Masons, of every point which has been claimed. The present district will be broken up, and smaller and more convenient ones formed, whereby every Lodge will have its own local and near Grand Lodge.

The Provincial Grand Master of each of these will, of course, be selected by themselves, and, doubtless, it may be assumed, always approved.

The fees of every kind will be reduced to 7s. 6d., a mere nominal sum, for the enrolment of Canadian Brethren among the Brotherhood of English Masons, with all present and existing advantages of the connection, notwithstanding the reduction or abnegation of fees.

And Provincial Lodge Warrants will be granted by the Provincial Grand Masters. It is possible that, for these, a return of their number may be desired to be made known, either annually or semi-annually.

In all this, the desire of the Grand Master to maintain the unity and close connection of English Masons with each other, and their great and venerable Mother Lodge, is manifest and gratifying, and cannot fail to be appreciated, whilst his action, with respect to certificates, is a satisfactory announcement that delay will no longer exist with respect to them. I have only to add that immediate attention will be given to representations from the Province.