

Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada,' and thus the claims of the three mother Grand Lodges were extinguished, except in the case of England, which reserved certain rights as described in the letter of March 23rd, 1859, from the Earl of Zetland.

This correspondence developed the fact that when the convention met, October 10th, 1855, the forty-one lodges notified and requested to take part therein, held their warrants from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, fifteen; from that of Scotland, one; from the Grand Lodge of England, in Canada East, ten; in Canada West, fifteen.

"The troubles of the Grand Lodge of Canada were not limited to its relations with the three mother Grand Lodges; but the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West developed so much energy, that negotiations were commenced with it, in 1856, to establish 'preliminary terms' for consolidation.

"In September, 1857, this latter body dissolved, and declared themselves an independent Grand Lodge, under the style and title of 'The Ancient Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada.' Negotiations were renewed and continued until the 14th day of July, 1858; a complete union was effected, under the name of 'The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada.'

"At the time these several Grand Lodges were organized, the lodges holding under each of the three Constitutions, were placed in charge of a Provincial or District Grand Master. This sufficiently appears in the correspondence with the Earl of Zetland, on the part of Canada. In New Brunswick, R. W. Alexander Balloch, of St. John, was, and had been Provincial Grand Master of the English lodges for many years. Robert Gowan, of Frederickton, held similar relations to the Scotch lodges.

"In Nova Scotia, the District Grand Lodge of England and the Provincial

Grand Lodge of Scotland, had been for a number of years in care of Alexander Keith, Provincial Grand Master under both authorities.

"Whether this joint authority delayed the final and complete jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia being recognized, as sole, in the Province, we do not here consider; but enough has been said, to show that prior to the organization of these several Grand Lodges, England, Ireland, and Scotland, held and exercised concurrent Masonic jurisdiction in the Provinces now comprised in the Dominion of Canada."

ENGLISH OPINION OF CANADIAN TEMPLARISM.

Our able contemporary the London Freemason, either cannot or will not see the difference between the American view of the complete sovereignty of all Grand Bodies on this continent, and the English accepted practice. So much has been said on the subject, that it would be mere repetition for us here to attempt to refute the arguments set forth in the following from its columns:—

"We have been favored with a long and elaborate statement of the case of the Scottish Templar Encampments in New Brunswick against the action of the National Great Priory of Canada. We have no intention of laying this statement before our readers, who have probably heard enough of these apparently interminable disputes about jurisdiction, which are regarded with so much earnestness, and argued in the majority of cases with so much bitterness of spirit, in American Masonic circles. Happily for us in the United Kingdom, the limits of the authority exercised by our several Grand Lodges are so clearly defined, that the chance of any conflict arising between any two of them is out of the question. But