

pointed for the purpose, the rules and regulations for conducting public business, contained in the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of England, were *mutatis mutandis*, unanimously adopted for the government of the Convention.

The objects for which the Convention was called were introduced with explanatory observations by the Chairman, who invited the brethren present to express their views on the subject before the meeting freely and at length.

The convention was addressed by many of the brethren, and the several points of alleged grievance were very fully considered and discussed.

In the course of the debate it was urged, that, however willing the Grand Lodge of England might be to concede all the points embraced in the petitions of the Provincial Grand Lodge, the serious inconvenience arising from the distance (near 1,000 miles) between Great Britain and this Province, could not thus be avoided, whilst the establishment of a Grand Lodge of Canada, in addition to remedying that inconvenience, would unite as one family the Fraternity of the Province, identify the interests, and assimilate the working of the various Lodges at present belonging to three distinct jurisdictions, and establish harmony throughout the Craft.

It was further urged that having a Grand Lodge in the Province would afford the Lodges a convenience of communication which would greatly facilitate the business of the Craft—that the amount of dues that would be saved by having but one Grand Lodge to support would materially increase their benevolent resources—that a Grand Lodge, with officers annually elective by the Masons of Canada, would secure due attention to the interests of the Fraternity, and elevate Freemasonry in Canada to a position of prosperity, influence, and utility, under any other circumstances far beyond its capabilities.

It was also urged that amongst the numerous and intelligent body of Masons in the Province, the requisite talent and devotion to the welfare of the Craft may at all times be found to conduct an efficient administration of the affairs of Freemasonry in Canada, and that the necessities of the Fraternity required that they should assume a position of self-government.

The feeling of the Convention being manifestly so strongly in favor of the establishment of an independent Grand Lodge, a Committee, composed of those brethren whose Masonic knowledge and general ability had distinguished them as the best qualified for the faithful and efficient performance of so important a duty, was appointed to investigate all available Masonic authorities for precedents applicable to the peculiar circumstances of the case. The result of their researches was a recommendation for the immediate formation of a Grand Lodge of Canada. This recommendation, with the full and explanatory report of the Committee, having received from the Brethren that calm and grave consideration which the serious importance of the subject demanded, it was felt that, however painful it might be to them thus to sever the link which had so long bound them to their parent Grand Lodges of Great Britain and Ireland, and sincerely as they felt, and readily acknowledged, the duty they owed to those parent Grand Lodges, they felt that they owed a still higher duty to Freemasonry, whose interests were at stake, and whose prosperous existence in the Province imperatively required that immediate separation.

It was thereon solemnly resolved—

That in order to apply a remedy to these evils—to form perfect fraternal union, and harmony, establish order, ensure tranquility, provide for, and promote the general welfare of the Craft, and secure to the Fraternity of Canada all the blessings of Masonic privilege, it is expedient, right, and our bounden duty to form a Grand Lodge of Canada.

It was then on motion unanimously resolved.

That the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, be and is hereby formed upon the Ancient Charges and Constitution of Masonry.

A Committee was then appointed to prepare rules and regulations for the government of the Grand Lodge of Canada; and a temporary code

having been submitted and approved, the Grand Lodge proceeded to the election of Grand Master and Grand Officers. V. W. Bro. W. M. Wilson, Past Grand Senior Warden of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Upper Canada, and W. M. of Norfolk Lodge, Simcoe, C. W., No. 500, R. E., was elected Grand Master, and V. W. Bro. A. Bernard, Past Grand Junior Deacon of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Montreal, and William Henry, Lower Canada, and W. M. of St. George's Lodge Montreal, C. E., No. 613, R. E., was elected Deputy Grand Master, and Brethren of Masonic ability were elected and appointed Grand Officers.

Committees were then appointed to conduct the general business of the Grand Lodge, and the Convention was adjourned with solemn prayer—its deliberations having occupied three days.

The requisite arrangements having previously been made, on the 2nd of November, the Grand Lodge was duly consecrated, and the Grand Master elect regularly installed, in due and ancient form by the Most Worshipful the Honorable H. T. Backus, P. G. M. of the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of the State of Michigan, assisted by other Brethren of eminence and distinction in the Craft.

The Grand Lodge of Canada was thus regularly formed and inaugurated, in the name of the Great Architect of the Universe, in conformity with the custom which has prevailed in the establishment of Grand Lodges, and we confidently believe that the circumstances which called it into existence were as much stronger, as the number of Lodges by whom it was formed was greater than had ever before combined for the creation of a new Grand Lodge. From the time when the Four Lodges of London renounced their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of York, and formed themselves into an independent Grand Lodge, up to the present period, the greatest number on record of Lodges ever associated to erect a new Grand Lodge was seventeen, whilst forty-one Lodges, and holding warrants, too, from three different jurisdictions, were harmoniously united in the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

We have now stated as briefly as their importance would admit, the whole of the circumstances connected with the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and we submit them with all due respect to your august Body, to whom we have always looked up as the fountain of Masonic knowledge, and the brightest example of virtue, dignity, and benevolence, and from whom the great majority of us claim, and ever will proudly boast, our descent.

Having been entrusted with the sacred duty of directing the affairs of the Craft, in this Province, and of representing them and advocating their interests throughout the Universe; and having solemnly undertaken that charge, and to disseminate the grand principles of our Ancient and Honorable Order, and promote to the utmost extent of our ability the general prosperity of the Fraternity it is our earnest desire and intention to follow and maintain, pure and unsullied, the ancient landmarks, laws, and traditions of the Craft as we received them from your hands.

Engaged in one common cause—the good of our fellow-men, by promoting the interest of our time-honored Institution,—and it being our first wish and highest ambition to establish and perpetuate a sincere and intimate alliance with the Grand Lodge of England, we extend to you, in the name of our Divine Art, the right hand of brotherhood, and confidently claim from you a reciprocation of our fraternal regard.

Signed on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

Wm. MERRER WILSON, G. M.

(L. S.)

THOS. BIRD HARRIS, G. S.

Hamilton, C. W., 10th Nov., A. L. 5355.

### Banquet and Presentation.

The members of the Hiram Chapter of Hamilton, Canada West, met on Friday, the 11th of April, for the purpose of presenting Companion Thomas Duggan with a piece of Silver

Plate, as a testimonial of their appreciation of his worth as a man and a Freemason. The occasion was one of much rejoicing with those who participated. An elegant banquet was provided to refresh the physical man, while the feast of reason and the flow of soul contributed to give a zest and a charm to the good things set before them. The Companions were in full Masonic regalia. Comp. C. McGill presided, Comp. Duggan, the guest of the evening, sitting at his right, Comp. J. Harris at his left.

After the proper attention had been bestowed, in *stowing* away, in the most agreeable manner, the "goodies" of all kinds, and listening to sweet strains of music during the whole of the repast, a number of toasts were drunk. The fifth toast was given by the Chairman, having immediate reference to the object of the evening, in the following words: "Health, long life and happiness to Companion Duggan," at the same time he presented to him the testimonial, and made the following remarks:

"Companion Thomas Duggan, the Companions Royal Arch Masons of the Hiram Chapter, Canada West, being deeply impressed with, and highly appreciating the valuable services which, for many years, you have so ably and willingly rendered the Chapter, both in the exalted position of Most Excellent High Priest, and in other offices, and duly recognizing the zeal you have always displayed for the welfare of the Chapter and its members from the date of its charter in 1849, in which your name appears as First Principal, until the present time, have unanimously determined to present you a piece of Plate, as a testimony of their admiration of your Masonic zeal, and a memento of their individual friendship and regard.

"The testimonial now presented to you, was chosen in preference to any emblem of our ancient and beloved Order, with the view that the amiable partner of your life might, in some degree, participate in the pleasure which must be ever engendered by the contemplation of a token from so many friends and Companions. May the Great I Am long preserve you to each other in the enjoyment of domestic comfort, health, happiness, and peace; and may the bonds of friendship and brotherly love now existing between us continue to cement and strengthen, so that as years roll on, many bright links may be added to the already extended chain of friendship."

The testimonial presented to Comp. Duggan, was an elaborately chased silver jug, bearing the following inscription:—"Presented by the Royal Arch Masons of Hiram Chapter, Hamilton, C.W., to Comp. Thomas Duggan, as a token of their appreciation of the valuable services which he has rendered to the Chapter during the many years of his officiating as Most Excellent High Priest, and as a memento of their fraternal regard and esteem." The toast was drunk with much enthusiasm, and was responded to at some length, in a feeling manner, by Companion Duggan.

Among the Companions named, we find some with whom we have been in fraternal correspondence for a long time. The occasion appears to have been one of great rejoicing, and will, no doubt, be long remembered by those who were present. Companion E. M. Harris, one of the testimonial committee, replied to a toast in language which does him credit, and we cannot refrain from transferring to our columns the excellent Masonic sentiment which he gave, viz.—"May the sight of the miserable and afflicted, and the touch of the poor or distressed, ever cause sympathy

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