

kindness and the able manner in which he had conducted the Ceremonies.

The Grand Chapter was closed in ample form with solemn prayer.

THOS. B. HARRIS,  
Grand Scribe, E.

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## The Canadian Masonic Pioneer.

MONTREAL, MAY 1, 1857.

R. W. Bro. BERNARD wishes the Fraternity to know, that his connection with the *Canadian Masonic Pioneer* has ceased. Should he write for it in future, his articles will appear over his own signature.

The next number of the *Pioneer* will appear on the 1st day of July next, the present proprietors requiring until that time to arrange matters for its future publication.

FREEMASONS' HALL, LONDON.

13th March. 1857.

R. W. BROTHER,—I am commanded by the M. W. Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, to assure you of the great anxiety he has ever entertained to maintain the welfare and integrity of the Craft, in all its branches. The unfortunate differences which have existed in the Canadas, have received his most mature and deliberate consideration, and he felt himself called upon to state the result of those deliberations to the Grand Lodge, at their Meeting on the 4th instant. That no difficulty or question should arise, as to the exact statement which the Grand Master desired to make, His Lordship committed his communication to writing, and himself read it to the Grand Lodge. Of that statement, by His Lordship's command, I now enclose you a faithful transcript, viz:—

1.—“With regard to the Canadas, I regret as much as any one the present position of affairs, and I frankly confess, that I cannot but feel that our Canadian Brethren complain with some degree of truth, that they have not received at our hands, all that consideration which they might have reasonably expected. I do not see that any advantage would arise now from re-opening

“the subject of their complaints, the chief and great object, now, is to amend past short comings, and to endeavour to get matters to run more smoothly for the future. I am bound to say, however, that I was not acquainted with the whole state of affairs relating to Canada West, when I addressed Grand Lodge on a former occasion, and there has been some confusion with reference to the so called Independent Grand Lodge of Canada, and the Provincial Grand Lodge of the same place. With the former, I need hardly say we can have nothing to do, they have thrown off their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England, and that, without returning the warrants which they hold under it. To them, I applied the term “rebellious” and I think Grand Lodge will agree with me, that I did not unjustly apply that term.

2.—“Since then I have carefully considered the subject, I have given it the best attention in my power, and I have come to the conclusion that I may without any sacrifice of the privileges with which I am invested, as your Grand Master, make such a concession to them and to their wants, as will satisfy them. In order that I may be understood, I must call your attention to the requests which were made to me in the Petition first received.

a.—“They Petitioned to have the power of electing their own Provincial Grand Master.

b.—“That they should retain all fees of every sort and kind.

c.—“That their Provincial Grand Master should grant Warrants for new Lodges.

d.—“That he should be empowered to appoint subordinate Provincial Grand Masters.

e.—“That Grand Lodge should still retain a supervising power.

3.—“This, it will be at once perceived, would be, if granted, to declare them to all intents and purposes, a body Independent of the Grand Lodge of England. I need hardly point out to you that this was a course I could not consent to, for it would have amounted to a subversion of the constitution and law, of English Masonry, and had that Petition received a reply, which I much wish had been sent to it, it could only have been replied to, by a direct negative. I was naturally anxious to preserve unimpaired in my own person, and to hand down to my successor the privileges and prerogatives with which you have entrusted me as your Grand Master, not from any desire on my own, or for my own personal sake (for let me assure you, that the appointment of officers is a very irksome and frequently a very unenviable task) but solely as representing the Grand Lodge of England. I am as anxious now, as I was then, to maintain the privileges of the Grand Master intact, because I conceive that it conduces to the welfare of the Craft, that I should do so; but I have, after careful consideration and upon

“more full information, come to the conclusion that I may afford the relief desired by our Canadian Brethren, without a sacrifice of those privileges.

4.—“The Canadian Masons contend, that they have full and ample means of judging who would best serve their interests and those of Masonry, as their Provincial Grand Master, whilst I, at this distance, have not the same favorable opportunity. I feel the force of that remark, and taking into consideration all the circumstances, I am prepared to say, that I will consider the propriety of appointing, as Provincial Grand Master of Canada West, any Brother, whom they shall report to me as most acceptable to themselves; they may do this, if they desire it, either in the form of a Resolution of the Provincial Grand Lodge, or in such other way as may be agreed upon; such nomination shall be subject only to my approval, and I need hardly say, that I should feel it to be my duty in making this offer, not to withhold my nomination of such a Brother, so recommended, unless for weighty reasons, which I should be prepared to justify. In making this concession, I beg it to be clearly understood that I only announce my own intention, and do not propose or consent to any alteration of the laws; that, in nominating a Provincial Grand Master, recommended by the Provincial Grand Lodge, I thereby should do so of my own free will, and, though I may set an example too, I will not consent to bind my successor.

5.—“As regards the question of fees, I have already laid a scheme before you, which I am told, is recommended for your adoption by the Colonial Board.

“The present fees payable by the Canadians, are:

“For Registration, 10s. of which one half goes to the Provincial Grand Lodge.

“For certificates, 6s. 6d.: Total, 16s. 6d.

“Fees proposed by the Grand Master:

“For Registration and Certificate, together, 7s. 6d.

“The Whole Scale of Fees will stand thus:—

London.

“Registration and Certificate £1 7s. 6d.

Country. Foreign & Colonial Lodges.

£0 17s. 6d. £0 7s. 6d.

“To fund of Benevolence 0 4s. 0d.

0 2s. 0d. nil.

“I may say that the question of fees is a matter of secondary importance, I am very sure that a mere money consideration will never influence us in our dealings with our Canadian Brethren.

6.—“I have already provided for the issuing of blank Certificates, in such a number, as will prevent any further complaints arising on that score, whilst, as regards the issuing of Warrants, I must remind Brethren that such a power, or equivalent to it, has