

this Provincial Grand Lodge, with a view to obtaining, from time to time, such moderate extension of power, or at the least such fraternal counsel under refusal from the Grand Lodge, as would enable them to deal more fully with local difficulties; and they beg most particularly to call the attention of your August Body to the respectful attachment to the Grand Lodge of England which is breathed in all these documents; and which if at length shaken, can only have become so from long, continued, and hopeless neglect.

On the 6th of June, 1850, a general feeling of dissatisfaction having been expressed at the neglect of correspondence, and the delay in the transmission of Certificates from the Grand Secretary's Office, and a further feeling (resulting from the same) of reluctance on the part of the Lodges here to continue to pay their Grand Lodge Dues, the following Resolution was adopted:—

"That a respectful Memorial be prepared under the direction of the Provincial Grand Master from this Provincial Grand Lodge, and transmitted to the Grand Lodge of England, expressive of the fraternal attachment of this Grand Lodge to the Parent Lodge, and of their desire to promote the interests of Masonry under the English Constitutions; That with this view it is considered essentially necessary that the Grand Lodge of England should confer additional powers upon and extend the authority of this Grand Lodge, so as to enable it to collect all dues payable to the Grand Lodge of England from the different Lodges in Upper Canada, and transmit them to the Grand Lodge of England, and to receive in return from the Grand Lodge of England the diplomas of all members to be sent for distribution by this Grand Lodge to the different Lodges in Upper Canada; That this concession, if granted, would, in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, tend greatly to the promotion and consolidation of Masonry in Upper Canada, as it would bring all the Lodges into direct communication on essential and pecuniary matters with the Provincial Grand Lodge, thus making the Provincial Grand Lodge the medium of communication between all the Lodges in Upper Canada and the Grand Lodge of England."

A Petition was accordingly prepared embodying the above Resolution, and containing the following strong concluding paragraph;

"It is also considered by your Petitioners to be necessary for the welfare of Masonry, that this Provincial Grand Lodge should be recognized and established as an independent Grand Lodge with full power to control the working and operations of the Craft under its jurisdiction; for the accomplishment of which your Petitioners humbly, respectfully and fraternally pray your most Worshipful Body to do, or cause to be done, in the premises, whatever may be necessary and proper."

Your Memorialists merely quote from this Petition, to show that, even at this early day, the neglect of the Grand Lodge was the cause of a proposal for Independence, with a view to a more active Local Government, but from the deep feeling of attachment still prevailing with the majority of the brethren, the adoption of this Petition was allowed to be deferred, and it was at length withdrawn.

On the 20th October, 1852, the neglect of the Grand Lodge still continuing, the subject of Independence was again introduced, the following Resolutions being unanimously adopted:—

"1st. That this Grand Lodge entertains towards the Grand Lodge of England feelings of the highest respect and esteem, that it is our most ardent desire to cultivate those feelings to advance the interests and to establish upon a firmer basis the character of Masonry in this Province.

"2nd. That with a view to the carrying out one of the primary objects of our time-honored institution, namely, that of being more useful to our fellow-creatures, it is necessary that all the funds accruing from the operations of the Craft in this Province be retained by this Grand Lodge.

"3rd. That it is absolutely necessary for the welfare of Masonry that a separate Grand Lodge be established with full power to control the working and operations of the Craft in this quarter of the Globe; to secure which a Committee be appointed to draft a Petition to the Grand Lodge of England based on the foregoing Resolutions, praying for permission to establish a Grand Lodge in that part of the Province of Canada formerly constituting Upper Canada, with full power and authority to manage and control all matters connected with such Grand Lodge, and all Lodges working under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England; and that the said Committee be fully empowered to carry on all correspondence with the Grand Lodge of England; for the purpose of securing the absolute independence of such Grand Lodge."

On the 20th of May, 1853, on the Minutes of the Provincial Grand Lodge being read, it was moved in amendment to their confirmation,

"That the Minutes of the Regular Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge, holden at Toronto on the 20th and 21st October, 1852, be confirmed with the exception of those Resolutions [Nos. 2 and 3] praying for permission to establish an independent Grand Lodge,"

Which was lost, and a Committee was appointed and the Petition prepared and unanimously adopted, which is set out at length in the Appendix to the Memorial marked "A," to which Petition attention is particularly requested, as it will be the subject of frequent remarks in this Memorial.

In the Appendix marked "B," will be next found the Letter of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, enclosing this Petition, and in the latter paragraph of which allusion is made to the neglect in the office of the Grand Secretary.

On the 9th May, 1854—The Petition and Letters remaining unanswered and unacknowledged, the following Resolution was adopted:

"That the P. Grand Secretary do forthwith write to the M. Worshipful Master, through the Grand Registrar, stating that resolutions of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada were transmitted to the Grand Secretary in December last, and that no answer thereto has been received or acknowledgement thereof made, and that the correspondence connected with the transmission of said resolutions be at the same time forwarded; and further, that the Provincial Grand Lodge has suffered materially from the neglect of the G. Secretary's office, in not acknowledging receipt of monies transmitted on the 5th and 19th March, 1853, as well for Lodge Charters as for Master Masons' Certificates, and the non-transmission of said Charters and Certificates."

In compliance with this Resolution, the Provincial Grand Secretary addressed the following letter to the Right Honorable and Most Worshipful the Grand Master the Earl of Zetland.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE, C. W.,
Toronto, June 12, 1854.

"MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER,

"I am instructed by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, as per the enclosed Resolution, to transmit to your Lordship the several documents enclosed, which are true copies of those which have been forwarded, according to their several dates, to the Grand Secretary, but to which this Grand Lodge has not as yet received any reply."

"I have the honour to be,
Your most obedient and humble servant,
[Signed,] F. RICHARDSON,
Pro. Grand Secretary."

"The Documents Enclosed were,

"Copy Letter,—Deputy Provincial Grand Master, enclosing Remittance, dated March 5, 1853.

"Copy Letter,—Deputy Provincial Grand Master, enclosing Remittance, Dated March 19, 1853.

"Copy Letter,—Deputy Provincial Grand Master, with Petition, (see Appendix "B.") Dec. 3, 1853.

"Do., and Copy of Petition of May, 1853, (see Appendix "A.")

Still further to insure the safe delivery of this communication, the Provincial Grand Secretary forwarded the same for delivery at the Grand Registrar's Office, to Brother B. R. Townsend, of London; and your Memorialists have now before them the Report, bearing date the 25th of September, 1855, of "The Committee appointed by the Board of General Purposes to inquire into the Petition, allegations and statements of certain Brethren of the Craft in the Province of Canada West," which states

"That the Remittances referred to in the Petition were received in letters severally dated 5th and 19th March, 1853, and respectively received on the 22d March and 1th April 1853, and the Committee regret to add that no proof was adduced to them of such remittances having been acknowledged, and no satisfactory reason suggested for the omission.

"That the Petition to the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, from the said Brethren in Canada West appeared to have been received on the 19th of December, 1853, but in consequence of his absence from town, the same was not laid before him until the latter end of February, 1854.

"That no directions have been given on the subject of the said Petition, which remains unanswered to this time.

The Report of this Committee is set out at length in the Appendix, under the letter "C." Your Memorialists have quoted from it as above, in the body of their Memorial, to bring prominently before your notice the actual date of the receipt of their Petition, which has never yet been acknowledged.

On the 11th of May, 1855, a year later, but still the Petition and letters remaining unanswered, the following Notice of Motion and Resolution were adopted:

"V. W. Br. W. M. Wilson, Master of Norfolk, Lodge, Simcoe, gave notice: 'That at the next Communication of this Grand Lodge, he will move that a Petition be forwarded to the Grand Lodge of England, praying that R. W. Body to divide Upper Canada into three Masonic Divisions, establishing a Grand Lodge in each Division, and also that at the said Meeting a Delegate be appointed to proceed to England for the purpose of attending to such matters as may be entrusted to him by this Grand Lodge.'

"On motion, it was Resolved, 'That the R. W. Master be requested to summon a Lodge of Emergency, to be held as early in July as possible, for the purpose of taking into consideration the motion to be proposed by the mover of this resolution, and that the Grand Secretary be instructed to forward a copy of the motion to each Lodge under this jurisdiction, and such other matters as may be brought forward.'

On the 19th of July, 1855, a Special Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge was held, in compliance with the foregoing Resolution. At this meeting, one of the largest and most influential ever held in Canada, the feeling of excitement on the subject of the continued neglect of the Grand Lodge of England, had reached so great a height, that it was only through the strenuous exertions of the moderate party, that the following Resolution was lost:

"That a Meeting of Delegates from all the Lodges in the Province, under all jurisdictions, be invited to meet at an early day, to take the necessary steps for communicating with the Grand Lodges of Great Britain and Ireland, for the purpose of forming an Independent Grand Lodge."

And the following Resolution adopted:

"That the Provincial Grand Secretary do forthwith write to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England, that it is the earnest and respectful desire of this Provincial Grand Lodge, that an answer be returned to the prayer of the petition of this Provincial Grand Lodge, sent to the Grand Master on the 1st December, 1853—which answer, if returned forthwith, will tend to allay that intense excitement, already too prevalent in this Provincial Grand Lodge—and that th