

of England, Ireland, and Scotland, presents a very serious difficulty in regard to the necessary correspondence, as well as the prompt receipt of warrants and certificates, showing that each of the three Grand Lodges had jurisdiction in Canada and exercised it as co-tenants.

"On July 9th, 1856, it was announced that the Grand Lodge of Ireland had given 'prompt and hearty recognition' to the Grand Lodge of Canada, and thus all Irish claims were satisfied.

"A correspondence was commenced on the part of Canada, February 9th, 1859, with the Earl of Zetland, Grand Master of England, the result of which was expressed by the Earl on March 9th, 1859, in reply to Grand Master William M. Wilson, of Canada, in these words:—'I am willing readily to consent to the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada being acknowledged over the whole of Canada.'

"On the 8th day of February, preceding, the Grand Master had laid his views of the difficulty before the Grand Lodge of England, and that body had voted to leave 'the final arrangement of the matter' in his hands, and the noble Earl not only decided as above quoted, but also, 'for the future to grant no warrants for new lodges in any part of Canada.'

"But this was not all. In the same letter, the Earl plainly told Grand Master Wilson that 'the Provincial Grand Lodge of Quebec had existed and held authority for a period long anterior to the formation of any Grand Lodge in Canada, and I feel that even if expediency might appear to suggest it, justice would forbid me to deprive the brethren of Quebec (none of whose lodges have at any period joined, or expressed a desire to join, the Grand Lodge of Canada), of a privilege which they have possessed for years.

"I therefore claim for those lodges, that so long as they desire to remain under the Grand Lodge of England,

not only their full privileges as individual lodges and Masons, but also all the rights and privileges of their Provincial Grand Lodge shall be preserved to them; and I feel little doubt that upon consideration, you will agree in the justice of my position.

"It is my intention, if the remaining lodges in Montreal be desirous of it, to place them under the control of the Provincial Grand Master for Quebec; if otherwise, to permit them to correspond direct with the Grand Lodge of England, in the same manner as the lodges now in Canada West. Whatever my individual opinion may be, I do not feel that it would be consistent with the obligations of my office that I should endeavor, by any means, to induce those brethren to surrender their warrants and join the Grand Lodge of Canada; on the contrary, it is my duty to protect and support them by every means in my power; the result must depend upon the will of the brethren themselves. As it would not be consistent with the dignity of your Grand Lodge to attempt to draw them from their allegiance, so neither would it be consistent with the dignity of mine to attempt to drive them from their mother lodge; and I cannot believe the existence of these few lodges, so long as they desire to remain with us, can impair or imperil the harmony of Masonry throughout Canada.'

"This action was indorsed by the Grand Lodge of England, and on June 2nd, 1859, 'Zetland, G. M.' wrote, in advance of the Grand Secretary, informing Grand Master Wilson of 'the proceedings of our Grand Lodge of yesterday evening,' expressing also his gratification 'at the termination of all difficulties in reference to the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

"On May 6th, 1859, Wm. H. Laurie, Grand Secretary, G. L. of Scotland, addressed Grand Master Wilson, and informed him of 'the formal recognition, by the R. W. the Grand Lodge of Scotland, of the R. W. the Grand