

(E) 2d. A person claims to have been a member of the Order, and also a member of his State Grand Lodge, but cannot prove satisfactorily his standing in the Order, having no Card, in consequence of his Lodge having ceased to work joins another Lodge by initiation. "Has that Lodge a right to again confer the degrees on the Brother, or does his initiation entitle him to the rank and position he formerly held in the Order?" My reply thereto, (after a great deal of consideration and inquiry was) "that the reinitiation of a member was illegal as he could only be admitted by card, and if he had no card he could in no way be received."

(F) To another query in the same communication, which was, whether if the Lodge had conferred the degrees could they not be compelled to refund the money to the Brother which he had paid for the same? I replied, "That if the member was ignorant of the law and acted *bona fide* he ought to have the money refunded, if otherwise he ought to forfeit it."

There were some other questions asked of me which I thought unnecessary to embody in this report, as they were of but minor importance.

In accordance with a resolution of this Grand Lodge at the session of 1862, relative to a Testimonial to P. D. G. Master, Bro. J. R. Peel, I am pleased to state that such memento is now in the keeping of this Grand Lodge.

(G) I have much pleasure in referring particularly to the following named Reports, from D. D. Barr, (January and July,) Bro. Crichton, (January,) Brother Jackson, (July,) Bro. Glover (July,) Bro. McAfee (January and July,) and one from Bro. Sewell of Rond Eau Lodge, which is a splendid production.

I feel sorry that the Deputies have not all kept to the requirements of this Grand Lodge, in remitting punctually their semi-annual Reports, which would give the Grand Master, whenever he might be, a better opportunity of understanding more fully the true condition of the Order.

(J) I have prepared and will submit a blank form for semi-annual Reports, as my opinion is, that the form we now use is incomplete, and gives unnecessary trouble to the Committee appointed by this Grand Lodge to report upon Returns.

(K) Immediately after receiving the intelligence of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, President and Chief Ruler of the neighboring Republic, and after conferring with those members of this Grand Lodge to whom I could get access, I assumed the responsibility of preparing and forwarding in behalf of this Grand Lodge and the Order in Canada West, an appropriate address to President Johnston, of which the following is a copy:

To the Hon. Andrew Johnson, President of the United States of America:

The members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Canada West, in common with the brethren of the Order in the United States, deploring the atrocity of the recent assassination of the President of that nation, and bearing in mind the close ties which bind them in brotherhood together, besides being the offspring of one common stock, do tender their deepest sympathy and heartfelt regret to the brethren and citizens of the adjoining Republic under their present great national bereavement, occasioned by the late brutal and dastardly outrage, and which has deprived that people of their Chief Ruler, the country of a good and faithful restoring them to light, liberty and new life.

Trusting that the mild and tolerant policy which so eminently characterized the legislation of the late President, may ever be continued between the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty and those of the Republic, and that God, who in His infinite wisdom often brings great good out of apparent evil, may, around the grave of Abraham Lincoln, bury for all time to come the heart-burnings and differences which have unfortunately occasionally arisen between those, one in blood, one in common origin, and should be one in "Friendship, Love and Truth."

In conclusion, the Odd Fellows pray that the God of the fatherless and widow may comfort and support Mrs. Lincoln and her family under her present great and cruel affliction.

(Signed)
RICHARD WIGMORE, G. Sec., C. W.
London, C. W., April 18, 1865.

JAMES SMITH, Grand Master.