

What could the brethren of Quebec gain by a separation? Strength? Influence? Power? Dignity? Greater means of usefulness, or enlarged facilities for carrying on their charitable and benevolent operations? Nay, in all these respects they would be infinitely worse off than at present. They have always had their fair share, and more than their share of Grand Lodge offices and honours. Their grievances have, in every instance, been carefully considered and properly redressed. Every application to Grand Lodge, from any quarter, for assistance from its ample Fund of Benevolence, has been responded to in the most generous and liberal spirit. The utmost deference has at all times been paid to the views of the Eastern Brethren on all questions coming before Grand Lodge; and, through the magnanimity and fraternal consideration of their Western Brethren, they have been enabled to exercise an influence in Grand Lodge affairs, entirely disproportioned to either their numbers, ability or importance. What more could they possibly desire?

My brethren, whilst on legal grounds, I have attempted to shew that the late attempt to divide this Grand Lodge cannot be maintained, I also trust that on the score of expediency, I have been able to demonstrate to you that it is equally undesirable and unnecessary. In this busy, bustling, changing age, it would be well to remember often the quaint but cautionary proverb, "Let well alone."

Before concluding, it is fitting that I should gratefully acknowledge the obligations under which I am laid to M. W. Bro. Judge Wilson, P. G. M.; M. W. Bro. T. D. Harington, P. G. M.; M. W. Bro. W. B. Simpson, P. G. M.; M. W. Bro. A. Bernard, P. G. M.; R. W. Bro. Jas. Seymour, Dep. G. M.; R. W. Bro. M. Gutman, D. D. G. M., Montreal District; R. W. Bro. Alex. Walker, D. D. G. M., Quebec District: and R. W. Bro. T. B. Harris, our trusty and most efficient Grand Secretary, for the fraternal counsel and support which they extended to me, during the recent painful crisis in our masonic history.

Having now fulfilled the duty which devolved upon me, I commit this subject to your most careful consideration, praying that the Great Architect of the Universe, will guide your deliberations, and lead you to adopt such measures as will tend to promote peace and harmony, preserve the integrity, and uphold the honor and dignity of the Grand Lodge of Canada, which may God greatly prosper, and evermore perpetuate. So mote it be.

A. A. STEVENSON.

Grand Master,

Grand Lodge of Canada.

MONTREAL, December 1st, 1869.

The reading of the address was listened to with marked attention, and at its conclusion

It was moved by M. W. Bro. W. M. Wilson, seconded by M. W. Bro. T. Douglas Harington, and

RESOLVED,—That the address of the M. W. Grand Master be referred to the following Committee, to report thereon at the session of this Grand Lodge to be held on to-morrow, Thursday, at 10 o'clock, a.m., viz.: M. W. Bros. W. M. Wilson, P. G. M.; T. Douglas Harington, P. G. M.; W. B. Simpson, P. G. M.; A. Bernard, P. G. M. R. W. Bros. James Seymour, D. G. M.; Thos. B. Harris, D. Curtis, J. Milne, P. J. Brown,