

50 Copy of Report of Committee of G. L. of the D. of C.

Under these circumstances Canada then being one Province, a Convention was called and largely attended, and the "Grand Lodge of Canada" was formed.

The Grand Lodge of England refused to acknowledge it, and the masonic difficulties in Canada were for two or more years, a fruitful subject of discussion in all the Grand Lodges of the United States.

Any one who will take the trouble to look back at the printed proceedings of this Grand Lodge, in 1856—will find a very elaborate report, drawn up by the Chairman of this Committee, arguing to the best of his ability the whole subject, and concluding with an acknowledgment of the Grand Lodge of Canada, which report was sustained by this Grand Lodge.

This you will remember, was, when Canada was a single Province, and as we believed entitled to govern her own masonic affairs, independent of England, or any outside power.

In July 1867, that Province was severed into two separated and distinct Provinces called the "Province of Quebec" and the "Province of Ontario" and joined with the "Province of Nova Scotia" and the "Province of New Brunswick" have become "the Dominion of Canada."—So, if it was proper to acknowledge the Grand Lodge of Canada, it being an independent body, in a single Province, it seems to your Committee equally proper that when the Dominion of Canada is formed into four separate Provinces, each of these Provinces is entitled to a separated and independent Grand Lodge; and we all know that two of these Provinces, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, has each its Grand Lodge, both of which stand on our registers in full Communication with us.

This is no new question within the United States.—Up to December, 1811, the District of Columbia was under the masonic jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Maryland and Virginia: but, having become a separate territory of the United States, and Freemasonry in the District having assumed a sufficient power to believe itself entitled to be independent a Convention was called and the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia was formed.

So, of Virginia. The Grand Lodge of Virginia had jurisdiction from the Eastern boundary of Ohio to the Capes. The State was divided, and "West Virginia" was formed and the "Grand Lodge of West Virginia" is now formed and acknowledged by every Grand Lodge in the Union.

With these precedents before us, how much soever we may regret to differ in opinion with our respected Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Canada, we can come to no other conclusion than the one already expressed, and we hope to be pardoned for expressing a strong desire and sincere wish, that when the Grand Lodge of Canada review this whole matter and take into consideration their own position in relation to the Grand Lodge of England in 1855, that they will conclude to change their organization into the "Grand Lodge of Ontario," acknowledge the "Grand Lodge of Quebec" cordially and fraternally, and proceed onward in harmony and fraternal affection.

Your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution.

Resolved.—That this Grand Lodge, recognizes the Grand Lodge of Quebec, as an independent Masonic Grand Jurisdiction, and will hold fraternal correspondence therewith.

Signed,

B. B. FRENCH,
CHAS. F. STANBURY, } Committee.
JOHN LOCKIE,

GRAND LODGE OF F. A. A. M. of DIST. COL.

WASHINGTON, March 17, 1870.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of the Report of the Committee on jurisprudence, on the legality of the formation of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, submitted to the Grand Lodge at a Stated Communication held in January, 1870, and that the report was received by the Grand Lodge, and the Resolution appended thereto recognizing the Grand Lodge of Quebec as an independent Grand Lodge, was unanimously adopted.

(Signed) NOBLE D. LARNER, *Grand Secretary.*

Seal of Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.