

continue to sit among such an illegal faction. As the Prov. Chief talked of acting Constitutionally he was asked what constitution he considered binding on the Order in Nova Scotia, and in answer held up a copy of one put out last spring by a part of the Executive (a bare majority,) but never adopted by the Provincial Grand Lodge. This was demurred to by several, and most strongly by Lawyer Blanchard of Truro, but without avail, and so the Prov. Grand Chief continued to act by and enforce a constitution forced upon the Grand Lodge without their consent being asked, or even considered necessary. Late in the afternoon the Supreme Lodge question was taken up, and H. B. Mitchell, of Chester, opened the subject in a practical speech of one hour and an half, rapidly running through all its various phases and developments from 1862 down to the present meeting, and adducing many plain and tangible proofs on the following points, viz.—

1st.—That the Grand Lodge of Canada West by its action in 1862 looked to the formation of a Supreme Lodge.

2ndly —That in October, 1863, said Grand Lodge did proceed with such formation by electing a sufficient number of Supreme Lodge Officers to form a working Executive Council, and appointed N. C. Gowan, Esq., to frame its Constitution, and though a part of the officers of said Supreme Lodge were left for Lower Canada to fill up, no clause is inserted showing that if this be not attended to the whole formation to be null and void.

3rdly —That in 1864 the Grand Lodge of Canada West in a number of resolutions acknowledged such Supreme Grand Lodge, spoke of Rev. Wm. Savage as Worthy Supreme Grand Chief Templar, appointed representatives to THE Supreme Grand Lodge (not including N. C. Gowan. Why? For no other reason than that being a Supreme Grand Lodge Officer he needed no other appointment,) and chose N. C. Gowan, Esq., to visit the Grand Lodge of Canada East, to present the fraternal greetings of Canada West, and "to devise means for the more efficient working of THE S. G. L." And yet they make no appointment of time for THE Supreme Grand Lodge to meet, showing plainly that such appointment emanated from another source, nor can the time be found in any part of the journals of that session.

4thly —That the Provincial Grand Lodges of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, were all organized under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Grand Lodge, and did severally acknowledge its existence; that the

two latter were represented at its last January session, their representatives taking part in the business thereof, becoming Supreme Lodge Officers, and on returning home reported themselves as such. And

5thly.—That the existence of the Supreme Lodge cannot be doubted by any sane mind, when he could prove by those present that it held a session in Charlottetown, P. E. I., in July last, when upwards of forty representatives attended from the Provincial Grand Lodges of C. W., P. E. I., N. B., and N. S.

He also alluded to the much better position the Order in New Brunswick occupied than it did in Nova Scotia, the former calmly pursuing the even tenor of its way and true to its first formation, whilst the latter is torn with discord and disaffection. Much more he brought forward both of argument and information, touching some eighty or more different points as he passed rapidly through the subject. William Imlah, (*alias* the "faithless one," of Halifax, came next in reply. He probably took about the same length of time, and is the very man required to handle his side of the subject. He hesitates at nothing—takes up one journal and document after another, and pronounces everything that interferes with the position he assumes as false and unworthy of belief. His chief proofs of the non-existence of a Supreme Lodge were taken from extracts read from the journals of Canada East favoring his statements, but he carefully kept back those showing that instead of attending to their duty as British Templars in Canada East they were coquetting with the 'Sons' and 'Independent Templars,' with the idea of amalgamating with one or other of those bodies. Many bold, hazardous, and false statements Mr. Imlah made throughout, but did not attempt to explain how it was that even after his return home from Canada he wrote Bro. Gowan, plainly acknowledging the Supreme Lodge, while now he pretends to say that before he left Canada he knew there was no Supreme Lodge, and yet he returned to Nova Scotia and reported himself an officer thereof. Sheriff J. N. Freeman, of Queen's County, next took the floor, and occupied about the same time as the previous speakers. He gave Mr. Imlah his true character as a person hereafter unworthy of any credence whatever, and proved from his own statements that he had most sadly blackened his own character, and proclaimed himself destitute of all moral principle. He then took up the subject and handled it in a masterly style, taking up what the Anties consider their

strongest points and utterly destroying them with clear calm reasoning. His arguments were logical, forcible, and convincing. Rev. D. M. Welton replied in brief, and as it was getting late in the evening, here the debate ended. The Supremist party had yet a dozen speakers in reserve prepared to take up all the various points in dispute, and anxious to do so, but time forbade. They, however, presented a written protest against the legality of the proceedings of the persons who, working under a changed title, and altered seal, still assume themselves to be the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Order in Nova Scotia. This protest was signed by forty legal representatives, who after its presentation retired in a body. After their departure such havoc had been made in the ranks of those remaining by the arguments they had heard that I understand those of the Executive present could not get a resolution passed to sustain or adopt their conduct of last March, but had to be content with a motion leaving the matter in abeyance until after the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, with the understanding that the action there taken is to be followed by Nova Scotia. What a position to occupy! First to be formed and work under the Supreme Lodge. Next after a few months existence to break off, ignore the existence of its parent, and try to act as an independent body, and again, after a few more months, have to confess themselves in doubt as to whether they were right in ignoring the the Supreme Lodge or not, and resolve to wait and see what Canada will do, so as to follow their leading. And this is generally the result of all such hasty, crude and ill-advised conduct as was here pursued.

In the selection of their new officers, to add some little additional respectability to their party they elected some not present to office, Rev. James Hill for one, and he not near them during their whole session, but it is doubtful whether he will accept of office under them, and yet they lay such stress upon the necessity of all officers being installed thereto. They also elected and I suppose installed into office a Grand Counsellor, an officer not recognized by the Constitution they profess to be working under. But such incongruities must take place in such an illegally acting and assumed body. 'Tis true, as yet the great mass of the lodges in Nova Scotia lie in innocence and ignorance professedly with the seceders, a great many lodges having been formed recently by their agents, using stock of Bro. Gowan's, dishonestly kept (unpaid for) by them after leav-