

certainly no sane persons would dissolve a connection, if they did not think it advantageous; while to the former we will only in refutation of it, quote the following from the official manifesto of the Quebec brethren: "Among the many other important incidental reasons which induced the Freemasons in the Province of Quebec to follow the example of all other parts of the Masonic world, by the formation of a Grand Lodge in the said Province, there may be mentioned the vast length of territory included in the two Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, extending through some *twelve degrees* of longitude, from the State of Maine in the East to the State of Michigan or Central Ohio in the West—the meetings of Grand Lodge itinerating over such vast distances, and causing an enormous and impoverishing expense to many of the Lodges, especially those less wealthy in the country parts, in sending delegates thereto—the impracticability very often, of carrying up appeals and the like before Grand Lodge, except at a ruinous expenditure to many brethren, of time and money, and hence cases oft postponed, or going by default; the impracticability, on account of the necessarily inherent *dual* conflicting provisional interests and preferences, of securing permanently located offices for Grand Lodge, and owned by it; the impracticability of erecting any edifice for the use of Grand Lodge in any locality which would be satisfactory to *both* provinces; the like impossibility of erecting a Masonic asylum, for which a large sum of money was raised and appropriated, and, notwithstanding the 'Asylum Trust' have annually for a long time urged the importance of further action by G. L., have indicated localities, proposed plans, suggested 'ways and means,' yet for the above mentioned and other obvious reasons it has hitherto been found impossible to take action thereon; and the same has been true *under the double-majority regime*, would continue to be true in regard to a proposed Masonic orphan school, Masonic farm, and all other such like schemes of practical Masonic benevolence, any one of which seeming expedient and desirable can, without doubt, be successfully carried out in each province by their respective Grand Lodges." If these be not grievances in the eyes of Grand Master Stevenson, we hardly know what he would call grievances. We do not think the Masonic world will agree with him.

Another of the strong points which M. W. Bro. Stevenson essays is, that, as the separate local governments and legislatures of Ontario and Quebec (before July 1, 1867, united) are under the supervision of Lieutenant-Governors, deriving their appointments from the Governor-General of the Dominion, so should the Masons of the Province of Quebec be stopped from establishing their independence, and be compelled to remain subject to the so called Grand Lodge of Canada, but when, by the division of the ties, that, previous to July 1, 1867, bound Canada West and Canada East together, ceases in our opinion to rightfully retain that appellation. If there be any force in that line of argument, it would be fatal to the existence of the Grand Lodge of Canada itself; for, as the Governor-General is only an appointee of the English Crown, so should the Masons of the Canada obedience return to the Grand Lodges from whom its original Lodges derived their warrants. Such objection on the part of the M. W. Bro. Stevenson is as puerile as it is illogical, and unworthy the occasion. Grand Master Stevenson further on in his address asks: "If the Grand Lodge of Canada existed in and exercised authority over the Province of Quebec, as well as Ontario, *previous to Confederation*, by what process of reasoning can it be made to appear that she only exists in and exercises authority over *one* of these Provinces *SUBSEQUENTLY* to that event?" We are really surprised at his asking so simple a question, the more especially, as he was *one* of a Committee of *seven* appointed by the G. L. of Canada in July, 1867, in consequence of the attention of that M. W. Body being called "to the then anomalous state of Masonic affairs, caused by the recent political changes that had taken place," by its Grand Master, Wilson. That committee consisted of *four* from "Ontario" and *three* from "Quebec." The former reported in favor of maintaining the *status in quo*, awaiting further developments; and the latter, of which M. W. Bro. Stevenson was one, reported in favor of an independent Grand Lodge in each of the four Provinces constituting the Domi-