

July 1st, 1867, the "Province of Canada" as then existing, was, to use the very word of that Act, "severed" into *two separate and distinct Provinces*, called the "Province of Quebec," and "The Province of Ontario." These Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, thus formed, were also by the Proclamation of the aforesaid "British North American Act," joined (together with the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, into one federal union which was declared "to form and be" "The Dominion of Canada;" so that, since the 1st July, 1867, the *two Provinces* of Ontario and Quebec, have been and are as *distinct and separate* as the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, or as are any *two States* of the American Union, while the Legislature of each Province is similar to the Legislature of each State of the same, and the Dominion Parliament is somewhat analogous to the Federal Congress of the United States of America.

2nd. That the Grand Lodge of "Canada" (whose name had thus become a "misnomer," for over two years, has merely been exercising what may be called an *ad interim* authority, (always conjoint and divided as far as what is now the Province of Quebec is concerned), over *two separate and distinct Provinces*, contrary to the well-established principle, "that Masonic and political boundaries are, and ever ought to be, coterminous." And not only was the continued existence in the Province of Quebec, of Private Lodges under the jurisdiction of the three Grand Lodges, viz: England, Scotland and Canada, and the consequent joint occupation, directly and indirectly, of the same Province by these three separate Grand Lodges, deemed and held to be contrary to the laws, usages and customs of our ancient and honourable fraternity respecting the establishment and jurisdiction of Grand Lodges, but much painful experience had shown and convinced the majority of the Brethren in the Province of Quebec that such a state of Masonic affairs was wholly incompatible with the peace and welfare of our beloved fraternity.

3rd. That although the condition of Masonic affairs in British North America has been carefully and anxiously considered for a long period, yet no solution of the admitted difficulties has been suggested or proposed, which has been at all satisfactory to a majority of the Brethren in the Province of Quebec and elsewhere throughout the country, except the formation of an independent Grand Lodge in each of the four Provinces constituting the Dominion of Canada. For