

"Finding," says the circular, "that the interests of the craft in the Province were suffering with increased severity from the cause of which they had complained; feeling deeply the uncourteous neglect the petitions and correspondence of the Provincial Grand Lodge experienced from the officers of the Grand Lodge of England, and believing the Provincial Grand Lodge to be incapable of obtaining the concessions which the position of the craft rendered indispensable, it was determined to call a meeting of delegates from all Canadian Lodges, to be held in the City of Hamilton, on the 10th of October, to consider the expediency of establishing a Grand Lodge of Canada."

In consequence of this determination every Lodge in Canada was notified of the intended meeting at Hamilton, to be held on the 10th day of October, 1855.

The circular then proceeds to give a full account of that meeting, and its result was the formation of "The Grand Lodge of Canada," which was duly consecrated, and its officers installed by a Past Grand Master of the State of Michigan.

"From the time," says the circular, "when the four Lodges of London renounced their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of York, and formed themselves into an independent Grand Lodge, up to the present period (Nov. 10, 1855,) the greatest number of Lodges on record, ever associated to erect a new Grand Lodge was seventeen, whilst forty-one Lodges, and holding warrants, too, from three different jurisdictions, were harmoniously united in the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Canada."

Your Committee having inserted the circular of the Secretary of "Provincial Grand Lodge" entire in their report, could do no less than give the foregoing brief synopsis of the circular of the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada.

They have carefully compared the two papers, and are reluctantly compelled to say, that they have not been able to see in the argument of the Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge, any sufficient reason given to shake, in the least, the conclusion they arrived at in May last, and then reported to this Grand Lodge.

The first point attempted to be made in the latter argument is, that the "self-styled Grand Lodge of Canada" state, that at the Convention "the action taken was unanimous with one exception, whereas of the 41 Lodges there represented 15 were from the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, 10 from Canada East, &c.," going on to state fully the organization of that meeting, and showing that a large number of Lodges were not there represented, and drawing the inference that the "self-styled Grand Lodge" intended to misrepresent to the Masonic world, by claiming that all the Canadian Lodges but one were represented at that meeting.

There certainly is nothing in the circular of the Grand Lodge of Canada about "that meeting being unanimous, with one exception," and if there be any statement of that kind elsewhere, your Committee would regard it as meaning that the action at Hamilton was unanimous, with one exception. so far as the Lodges or representatives there present were concerned.

They say forty-one Lodges were represented, and is it to be supposed that sensible men

would be so foolish as to suppose they could impose on others so gross a misrepresentation as that there were but forty-two Lodges in Canada, when the whole Masonic fraternity of Canada knew to the contrary! If that argument mean what your Committee suppose, it amounts to nothing; and we have in vain striven, to the credit of the writer, to find in it some other meaning.

Your Committee cannot see the force of the statement that, on the return of some of the delegates who attended that meeting to their Lodges, they were not sustained in the course they had taken. Nothing is more common in the political world, than for a constituency to repudiate the action of their representative, but your Committee do not remember of ever hearing, even a pretence set up, that a law passed by the aid of that representative's vote, was any the less a law, because those who delegated to him the authority to aid in making it did not happen to approve it!

The circular of the Secretary states that the alleged cause which immediately led to the formation of the new body, was the refusal of the R. W. D. Grand Master at a special meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge, held at the Clifton House, Niagara Falls, on the 19th July last, to submit a motion from the chair, &c."

This may be the fact, but neither the circular of the Grand Lodge, nor any other paper that has come into the possession of your Committee, except this circular of the Secretary affirms any such cause.

To the minds of your Committee the circular of the Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge carries no conviction adverse to the recognition of the new Grand Lodge, but rather strengthens them in the belief, that it is the duty of the Masonic Fraternity of the United States to recognise it.

Your Committee in answer to intimations they have seen cannot omit to say that, in their view, there is not the least resemblance between the peaceable and proper formation of "The Grand Lodge of Canada," and the violent and improper formation of the spurious body presided over by a Mr. Phillips, and calling itself "The Grand Lodge of New York."

In the State of New York there was one legitimate Grand Lodge, which had been for years in existence, and which was recognized every where as the only Grand Lodge of that State. And it has come to be a Masonic principle in the United States, that but one regular Grand Lodge can exist in the same State or Territory in this Union.

We have already endeavoured to show the entire dissimilarity of the situation of the Fraternity in Canada, to the state of things which existed in New York, at the time of the disgraceful and violent proceedings which resulted in the formation of the illegitimate "Phillips, Grand Lodge" of that State.

Your Committee cannot close their report on this very important subject without giving some general views relative to it. One fact seems to them, were there no other, entirely to justify the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and that is, the disjointed and disorganized condition of the craft in Canada, as represented by Bro. F. C. Tisdale, representative, we believe in the Grand Lodge of New York, of the Grand Lodges of Canada West, Quebec, &c., in a communication addressed

to the Philadelphia Mirror and Keystone, in June last,

"On the 9th day of October last," says Bro. Tisdale, "there were eighty-four Lodges in the Canadas, viz:—51 Lodges English register, under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West; and 14 Lodges, Irish register, responsible only to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, in the same Province; 12 Lodges, register of England, under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Montreal and William Henry; 1 Lodge register of Scotland, and one Lodge register of Ireland in the same district; and 3 Lodges register of England, under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Quebec, &c.; 1 Lodge register of Scotland, and 1 Lodge register of Ireland in the same district."

With the Craft thus divided—to use the words of the Canadian Grand Lodge circular—"hailing as they did, from different Grand Lodges, and distributed as they were over a Province extending in length 1,500 miles, and breadth averaging over 220 miles, being three times as large as Great Britain and Ireland; the means of communication too being very imperfect"—is it to be wondered at that there was an almost unanimous desire amongst the freemasons in Canada, to have an independent Grand Jurisdiction of their own?

After becoming wearied and impatient at the silence in which their English mother persisted toward all their petitions and prayers for an amelioration, in some shape, of their masonic condition, a resolution was passed by the Provincial Grand Lodge, in July, 1855, appointing a special agent, who was requested to use his best endeavours to obtain an answer to the Petition of the Provincial Grand Lodge: the next thing, as it seems to your Committee, to getting down on their knees and imploring the Grand Lodge of England to hasten to their humble requests!

In September of that year, the craft in Canada were notified that the Special Agent thus appointed, had brought the subject of their grievances before the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge of England, and that matters were in a fair way towards a satisfactory result, and they were begged "to wait patiently a short time longer."

A large portion of the craft, under the impression, probably, that they had waited patiently long enough, on the 10th day of October, 1855, met at Hamilton, as has heretofore been stated, and formed "the Grand Lodge of Canada."

The formation of this Grand Lodge of Canada, has, in various papers which your Committee has seen, been denominated, illegal, schismatic, rebellious, and has been anathematized in various quarters, as if freemasons had no right to be free men, and act for themselves!

While your Committee stands as firmly on the ground of masonic constitutionalism assumed by those who have thus characterised this new Grand Lodge, as they possibly can, we have not been able to see the action of our Canadian brethren in the same light that they do.

We see a large body of freemasons, hailing from various jurisdictions, with no common head, who have for years, been striving, for the sake of peace, with a Grand Lodge 4000 miles away, claiming jurisdiction over a portion of them, to obtain leave for it to form an independent Grand Lodge, but who regarded not their request, assembling peaceably toge-