

ever, that offending members first promise to give their entire support and allegiance to the Grand Lodge as at present constituted, and to tender to the Grand Master such explanation and apology as will be satisfactory to him personally and as are necessary for the proper maintenance of the dignity of his official position.

"(Signed) A. J. BELCH, Chairman.
"J. H. BELL, Secretary."

Accompanying the above report was the following document, which the members of the committee who signed the report recommended for signature:—

"We, the undersigned, cordially accept the above recommendations of the committee, and hereby tender to the Most Worshipful the Grand Master our sincere regrets that in our zeal for Masonry our actions have been such as to disturb the peace and harmony of the Order and to threaten the existence of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba.

"We hereby promise our entire support and allegiance to the Grand Lodge, as at present constituted, and to the person and office of the M. W. the Grand Master."

The above report and accompanying document for signature were placed in possession of members. In due course the following note reached the chairman of the committee:—

"WINNIPEG, Dec. 11th, 1878.

"A. J. Belch, Esq., City.

"DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 10th inst., enclosing a report of Committee on Masonic differences.

"I regret to inform you that in the opinion of our committee the report if adopted would not tend to a solution of the existing difficulties.

"I am, dear Sir and Bro.,

"Yours fraternally,

"G. F. CARRUTHERS, Sec. Com."

On the same day, the following clandestine notice appeared:—

"GRAND LODGE OF MANITOBA, ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

"WINNIPEG, Man., 11th Dec., 1878.

"DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—You are hereby notified to attend the adjourned Emergent Communication of Grand Lodge that was called for Wednesday, the 20th ultimo, and which will now be held in Masonic Hall, here, on Monday, the 30th inst., at 2 p. m., for the purpose of reconsidering the business transacted at the last Communication of Grand Lodge. Also, to consider the true position of Freemasonry in this Province, and to take such action as may be advisable for the good of Freemasonry.

"Fraternally yours,

"E. G. CONKLIN,

"G. Junior Warden.

"GEORGE BLACK, Past Grand Master.

"W. N. KENNEDY, Past Grand Master."

Concluding that further forbearance with the offending Brethren would be dangerous to the welfare of the Craft, I ordered a meeting of the Board of General Purposes, called the present Emergent Communication of Grand Lodge, and took action in the matter of the above notice as follows:—

"GRAND LODGE OF MANITOBA, ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

"Office of the Grand Master,

"WINNIPEG, Dec. 17th, 1878.

"To the Most Worshipful the Grand Masters, Officers and Brethren of all Regular Grand Lodges of Freemasons throughout the world, to whom these present shall come,—

GREETING:

"BRETHREN,—I am again compelled in the continued and constitutional discharge of my duty to issue the following

"EDICT:

"To all Brethren in obedience to the M. W. Grand Lodge of Manitoba, A. F. and A. M.

"Whereas, Brothers W. N. Kennedy and George Black, Past Grand Masters, have, in conjunction with Bro. E. G. Conklin, (styling himself 'Grand Junior Warden,'—which he is not; but who was suspended by my Edict, bearing date the twelfth day of November last, for causes therein stated, and which suspension has not been removed) presumed to issue without my knowledge or consent a second notice calling a meeting of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, such notice bearing date, Winnipeg, December 11th, 1878, and signed by them as Past Grand Masters; and whereas such proceeding is a direct violation of the Constitution, clause 18, on Page 16, and an usurpation of my authority as Grand Master:

"Be it therefore known to you all that in virtue of the authority in me vested, as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, A. F. and A. M., I do hereby suspend the said Brothers W. N. Kennedy and George Black from all Masonic rights and privileges, and all Brethren are hereby notified not to hold Masonic intercourse with them; and any Brother who shall appear at the Masonic Hall, Winnipeg, or elsewhere within this jurisdiction, in answer to such clandestine notice, or any similar notice, shall be subject to like penalty of suspension.

"Witness my Hand and Seal of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, at Winnipeg, Province of Manitoba, Dominion of Canada, this seventeenth day of December, A. D. 1878.

"GEO. F. NEWCOMB,

"Grand Master.

"ATTEST.

"JOHN H. BELL,

[SEAL].

"Grand Secretary."

On the same date Prince Rupert's Lodge held their regular meeting, and, it having been reported that certain irregularities had taken place at that meeting, I asked