

Highly as I prize the honorable position which I hold in our beloved society, I find that on account of failing health it will be impossible for me to attend during the session.

The Deputy Grand Secretary has kindly promised to be on hand and attend to the duties of the office.

I hope your session will be a harmonious and prosperous one and may the Giver of all good abundantly bless your deliberations to the advancement of the Order.

I have the honor to be, Dear Sir and Brethren,

Yours fraternally,

W. H. BARTON.

*Resolved*, That the letter be received and placed on the minutes.

*Resolved*, That the proceedings of this Grand Lodge meeting be not given to the public.

The Right Worshipful Grand Master explained the object of the meeting. He said: "Some little anxiety has no doubt been felt as to the object of this meeting. It has been insinuated in certain directions that there had been misappropriations of the funds for the Bathurst school inquiry. Now this present meeting has been called to deal with this matter. Since the R. W. Grand Master and the R. W. Grand Treasurer constitute the grand executive as to the matter of finances, such a rumor bears a palpable absurdity upon its face.

In consequence of the action of the last session of the Local Legislature in appointing a commission to inquire into the Bathurst School matter and in accordance with the action of the last Grand Lodge meeting, it was absolutely necessary to have the services of counsel in bringing action in behalf of oppressed Protestants of Bathurst before the Supreme Court of New Brunswick. W. Bro. Skinner had been engaged as senior counsel, and it was thought better that the R. W. Grand