

Province of Quebec, and to proceed, if so decided, to the foundation of a Grand Lodge for the Province of Quebec.

On the same day, 12th October, the Grand Master issued an edict prohibiting every brother under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, from attending such convention, or taking any part whatever in any other meeting which might thereafter be called for a similar object. And he also, after an unsuccessful remonstrance with three of those seventeen signers to that circular, on the 15th October issued edicts of suspension against all the brethren whose names were appended thereto, excepting one who had recanted. On the same day of those suspensions, a counter circular was issued by three of the suspended brethren, speaking in a contemptuous and disrespectful manner of said edict.

On the 14th October, the R. W. Bro. Gutman, D.D.G.M. for the Montreal District, attended the lodge room for the regular meeting of Zetland Lodge, and assumed the chair for the purpose of opening that lodge, the W. M. being absent, but the immediate Past Master, who is also a P.D.D.G.M., being present. That I.P.M. objected to the D.D.G.M. opening the lodge, claiming it as his, the I.P.M.'s, prerogative in the absence of the W. M., to take the chair and to open the lodge. The D.D.G.M. insisting that he had the right to open the lodge, holds on to the chair and finally succeeds to open the lodge; he reads the Grand Master's edict, which then is ridiculed and declared worthless by the I.P.M.; the brethren assembled, or at least many of them applauded the remarks of the I.P.M., which brooks the endurance of the D.D.G.M., and who therefore suspends said lodge, takes hold of the warrant and carries it off. He then complains to the G.M. that a series of indignities were offered to his office, and his right to preside questioned; that a dreadful scene of upror and confusion followed his attempt to carry off the Warrant, and that actual violence was only averted by interposition of the M.W. Bro. Bernard and one or two others.

Here then is a singular illustration of the duties of a craftsman, who shall judge with candor, admonish with friendship, and reprehend with mercy. The D.D.G.M. has no doubt a right to preside in every lodge within his District, but he must wait until the brethren assembled are formed *into a lodge*; the opening of the lodge is an indisputable right of the W.M., or in his absence of the I.P.M. For the D.D.G.M. to take the chair *before* the lodge is opened, and refusing to give up the chair to the I.P.M., as was done in the above quoted instance, is an usurpation of power, and it is not surprising that expressions of indignation were uttered by the offended brethren. The very commencement of that lodge meeting being constitutional, all the further acts of that functionary on that evening appear very problematical.—However, he deems it his duty to suspend the whole lodge, because one brother had spoken rebellious and unmasonic sentiments, and because some others had applauded—the punishment for *hissing* in Grand Lodge is even not half so severe.

This suspension, of course, induced the absent brethren, among whom was the W. M., and it also included the M.W.P.G.M. Bernard, who, probably in anticipation of resistance, had policemen stationed outside of the lodge, and by his timely and prompt interposition averted violence; for this act of violence he was rewarded with suspension. This is followed by the abstraction of the Warrant of the Lodge of Antiquity,