

York, was introduced, saluted with Masonic honors, and took his seat upon the dais.

THE QUEBEC QUESTION.

The debate upon the resolutions offered by the Board of General Purposes was continued.

W. Bro. McKechnie, with consent of his seconder, withdrew his amendment to the amendment.

It was conceded by the M. W. the Grand Master, that brethren need not confine their remarks exclusively to the subject matter contained in the amendment, so long as they kept within due bounds.

Eloquent speeches were made by R. W. Bro. V. Clementi, V. W. Bro. Stephens, W. Bro. Racicot, and V. W. Bro. O'Halloran, against the amendment; and by — W. Bros. Crombie and — Keiffler in its support.

A remark having been made that the R. W. the Grand Secretary had in his possession a communication from one of the suspended brethren, in reply to the summons sent him to shew cause,

It was moved by V. W. Bro. T. White, jr., seconded by V. W. Bro. R. P. Stephens, and

Resolved,—That the Grand Secretary be requested to read any letters in his possession from brethren who have been summoned to shew cause at this Communication of Grand Lodge, in accordance with the resolutions passed at the Emergent Communication in December last.

In accordance with the foregoing resolution, the Grand Secretary read the following letter:

MONTREAL, 30th June, 1870.

TO THOS. B. HARRIS, Esq., G. Sec. G. L. of C.

DEAR SIR AND R. W. BRO.—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of an official communication from you, under date 13th June, inst., summoning me to appear before the G. L. of A. F. & A. M. of Canada, at its annual communication, to be held in the city of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, on Thursday, the 14th day of July next, to "shew cause why I should not be expelled from the privileges of Free Masonry."

In reply, I have to state that in view of what I conceive to be the illegal, unjust, and arbitrary conduct of the Grand Master and G. L. of Canada towards me by my suspension, subsequent proceedings, and the issue of the above summons, I consider it my duty to decline so to appear and for the reasons:

1st. That being a mason of good standing, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and being answerable to that body alone for my unmasonic acts, and owing and admitting no allegiance to the G. L. of C., this latter body has no legal right whatever to summon me to appear before it, or in any way to adjudicate on my actions.

2nd. That even if the G. L. of C. held jurisdiction over me, it could not call upon me "to shew cause why I should not be expelled," *i. e.*, punished, until *after* I had been accused, furnished with a copy of the specific charges against me, tried and declared guilty—not one of which proceedings has ever yet been adopted.

3rd. That the G. L. of C. has already, at its last special communication, in my absence, on the *ex parte* statements of the G. M. and others, and without giving me any chance of defence, or opportunity to refute such statements, and contrary to all precedents of justice, prejudged my cause and "unanimously and emphatically condemned (my illegal) actions." *Vide* report of Special Committee, clause 3, adopted by G. L. of C.

In conclusion, I desire to state that I make this reply to your communication, and take exceptions to the acts of your G. L. on the grounds above given, from no spirit of disrespect to your G. L., or from any desire to increase or complicate the present difficulties unhappily existing throughout the Craft in the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario. And, as an evidence of my sincerity, I hereby declare that I am ready and willing at any time to give to your Grand Lodge, or to any of its officers or members, the fullest information and explanation of my masonic acts, if invited in a fraternal spirit to do so.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours respectfully,

JOHN H. ISAACSON.