

Grand Lodge of England to invest them with the attributes of "entire independence" as the "essentially English" (Rich!) "Grand Lodge of Upper Canada," backed by resolutions of the Private Lodges—a full recital of their past labours and sufferings in maintaining their allegiance, and a resolute menace of rebellion! is to constitute the next step in the career of "loyalty," which so highly distinguishes our Brethren of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West. They seem to think that either gratitude, or fear, or both must move that "August Body," to say—yes. If not, then they are prepared to become *Rebels*. Oh! Shocking!

The result of this movement it is not difficult to divine. The Grand Lodge of England has no authority to dismember herself; and, she has already shown, that, did the Constitutions of Masonry invest her with that power, she would not exercise it.

We stated in a former number, and now repeat it,

"That if the right to form a Grand Lodge in Canada existed at all, it was inherent in the regularly warranted *Private Lodges*, neither the Grand Lodge of England nor any other Grand Lodge possesses the authority to establish an *Independent Grand Lodge*. They may appoint Provincial Grand Masters, and, by warrant, establish Provincial Grand Lodges, with powers of greater or less extent—but these must ever remain subordinate to, and dependent upon, the authority by which they are created. They possess, and can possess, none of the true elements and high prerogatives of independent Grand Lodges. So that if the Grand Lodge of England had been petitioned until "doom's day," to form an independent Grand Lodge in Canada, and had finally been willing and ready to do so, she could not. She had not the power. Masonry has not, in any age, or in any country, or by any usages, invested Grand Lodges, with the power of creating their equals.—So true is this, that their does not exist upon earth, an independent Grand Lodge, which was created and made such, by the action or authority of any other similar body."

England then would not comply with the prayer of this petition if she could. She could not, if she would.

Failing in this the next step of our "loyal" brethren will be, as intimated in the programme, a declaration of independence, and the organization of "*the Grand Lodge of Upper Canada*." This would prove another sad act in the "Comedy of Errors," long and deeply to be deplored. There is now no such Province or political division as "Upper Canada," the two Canadian provinces having long since been united in one. It is an established principle of masonic law, universally recognized and practically enforced upon this continent, at least, that more than one independent Grand Lodge cannot exist in the same state, territory, province, or political division. One Grand Lodge, already recognized as such by a large number of similar bodies, now exists in Canada. A second, we are confident, could

not be countenanced by even one of the existing American Grand Lodges. Any attempt, therefore, to organize another independent Grand Lodge in Canada must prove disastrous in the extreme; fanning, as it inevitably will, the smouldering fire of contention now kept in some measure subdued into a furious flame, which will destroy the last remnants of fraternal love and fellowship and curse the craft for perhaps, ages to come. There is another wiser, better course to pursue. Let our brethren of the P. G. Lodges, "dismount their high horses," divest themselves of some portion of their fancied loyalty, and of their real to-dism, put on a little more manliness, invest themselves with the ample, generous, true spirit of masonry, and, in the strength and power of truth and love, of right and duty, unite with the brethren of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in building up an "essentially," not English, not American, but *Masonic* Temple, where all can harmoniously join in devotion to the great principles of our venerable and noble institution.

The brethren of the Grand Lodge of Canada have no narrow selfish policy. "To form perfect fraternal union and harmony, establish order, ensure tranquillity, provide for and promote the general welfare of the craft, and secure to the fraternity of Canada all the blessings of masonic privileges," are the only objects they have aspired to attain. If they have been denounced, excluded and calumniated, they have felt no disposition to retaliate. And we have no hesitation in affirming that their arms and hearts are open to reciprocate the fraternal fellowship and embrace of any and all the masons of this great province. The honors and titles of Office are regarded by them as of trifling importance. These baubles would readily be placed at the disposal of those whose superior "merit and ability" could command them. If the object were sincerely desired and the right spirit cherished there are indeed no obstacles which can be considered at all formidable, in the way of an almost immediate union of the entire fraternity of Canada. But this must be effected by Canadian masons themselves. No other power beneath the sun can accomplish it.

This memorial to the Grand Lodge of England we therefore regard as another step in the wrong direction. She has already been memorialized too frequently and too long. This, almost the entire craft, under her own jurisdiction admit, and the masonic world fully understands. Neither the constitutions of masonry honor, or gratitude require any further petitions to be sent across the Atlantic. Self-respect and duty to masonry forbid it. The fraternity generally throughout the world expects Canadian masons to settle their own difficulties and harmonize their differences. This can be done infinitely better now than after long years of strife and alienation.

We therefore sincerely hope that the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West will withhold this memorial, and at the meeting, to be held on the 8th proximo, in the spirit of manly confidence and generous love, resolve to co-operate in an honest effort for the immediate union of the entire craft in Canada under one jurisdiction. The task, if approached in the spirit of self-sacrifice and love for the permanent interests of masonry, can be easily accomplished, and this consummation so devoutly to be wished, once effected; there will be no difficulty with England or Ireland, with Vermont or New York, or any other Grand Lodge. On the contrary, an universal shout of hallowed rejoicing would resound throughout the masonic world. "Glorious," as Bro. French says, would that day of union be for Canadian masons. Glorious for the masons of the United States. Glorious for the masons of England. Glorious for masons everywhere!" "So mote it be."

The *Masonic Messenger* will please take notice that the *Pioneer* has not been lost in the woods. He has been in them however. The woods are the legitimate sphere of a pioneer's action; and devoted as our *Pioneer* is, to the Grand Lodge of Canada, he has a very forest of "tall pines" and thick tangled underwood to subdue.

Inhabitants of Canada are all familiar with what among lumberers is called "blazing," but, for the enlightenment of our mercurial brother, we will explain that that is the term by which the marking out of a track through, or a field of labour in, a forest, is, in these latitudes, designated. This is what the *Pioneer* has been doing. He has not been able to clear all as he went along, but he is, by his "blaze," marking out the track within which all must be made smooth. On one or two occasions, exhilarated by his exercise, he has gone so far into "the bush" as to be unable to get back to his shanty on the day appointed, and we presume it is to the latest of these miscalculations that the *Messenger* alludes in his query. Our brother will readily perceive that when the ground gets somewhat cleared it will be much easier for the *Pioneer* to get back to his post on any given day. In the meantime, however, so dense, so primeval in fact, is the forest in which his labor lies, that it is no easy matter for him to fulfil his contract.

Were the *Pioneer* a dweller in a more civilized region, we might, by way of excuse for his occasional want of punctuality, say something about busy Printers and careless Post-Masters, but as a *Pioneer* is not supposed to have anything to do with such functionaries, we forbear.

Henceforth, if the *Pioneer* should be a-day or two behind time in making his appearance, our friends may rest assured that—in the