

production of evidence by the newly organized Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia of its being in existence and working order, each of those Grand Lodges should as gracefully as need be or possible accept the new situation and its altered conditions, and advise and direct its subordinates to amalgamate their interests as soon as convenient with the lodges which have come under the new Grand Lodge."

"This we hold to be the case in Nova Scotia. The interests of the Masonic fraternity, as such, in that province, imperatively called for the erection of an independent local supreme masonic authority; and the present Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, which has been recognized as such by all of the Grand Lodges,—except two we believe, namely, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania,—seems to be the legitimate result of the legitimate desires of all those masons in Nova Scotia whose minds were fully awake to the need of such an organization."

"The masons of Nova Scotia have as regularly formed a Grand Lodge, according to the innate rights of masons in masonry, as is the Grand Lodge of England or Scotland or Ireland, or as Massachusetts or Pennsylvania. Massachusetts had no better right to issue its declaration of Masonic Independence than Nova Scotia has. The four old lodges of London had no better justification, when they organized the London Grand Lodge, than have the twenty-four or twenty-five lodges which now choose to work under the Nova Scotia Grand Lodge."

We may remark that we have received letters from some eminent brethren in the United States, sustaining strongly the view taken by us in a late number of the *Craftsman*, on this subject.

SCOTCH MASONRY IN NOVA SCOTIA.

We have received from Bro. Geo. Fraser, "Provincial Grand Secretary of the Scotch Lodges in Nova Scotia and F. E. Ireland," a lengthy communication in reply to a letter in the December number of the *Craftsman* on Scotch Masonry in Nova Scotia. We think our brethren will agree with us on reflection, that, in the present position of the *Craft* in the Province, and in view of the efforts which are being made to bring about a union of all the Lodges, under one Grand Lodge, no good purpose would be secured by publishing this letter, and thus provoking a discussion which there is too much reason to believe would degenerate into a mere unseemly personal altercation. As an act of justice however, we give the substance of Bro. Fraser's communication. He assumes the responsibility for the words "New Brunswick" appearing in the proclamation of the R. W. Provincial Grand Master, the Hon. Alex. Keith, in his proclamation relating to St. Andrew's day, stating that the preparation of the proclamation has been for the last twenty years being left in his hands, and he simply copied former proclamations without considering that the establishment of a Grand Lodge in New Brunswick rendered the inclusion of that province improper.

In reference to the surrendering of their warrants by Athole, Keith and Scotia Lodges to which our correspondent made reference, Bro. Fraser contends that the surrender was irregular and unconstitutional, and was protested against by members of the Lodges in good standing to whom the warrants were returned. And as a proof that the surrender was improper, Bro. Fraser furnishes us with the proceedings in the Supreme Court, at the suit of Athole Lodge against certain persons for the recovery of the furniture, jewels &c. We find by reference to their proceedings that the parties to the suit agreed to a division of property, the agreement being as follows.

"That the funds of the Lodge which came into the hands of the defendants should be equally divided between them and the plaintiffs, that the

jewels, banners, &c., which had been altered to suit the new Lodge should be retained by them, for which they should pay the plaintiffs \$100; that the Lodge books and archives should be restored to the old Lodge, and that each party should pay their own costs."

We sincerely hope that we shall soon hear the last of these unfortunate differences. Of the perfect legality of the formation of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia there can be no reasonable doubt. It has been attested by all the Grand Lodges of the United States, with the exception of that of Massachusetts, and by our own Grand Lodge after a careful investigation by a Committee composed of the best masonic jurists in Canada; and it is fairly entitled therefore, to the confidence and support of all our brethren in the Province.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

St. John's Day was celebrated at Newcastle, N.B., in a becoming manner. "Northumberland Lodge," who have never been behind the members of the *Craft* in the Province in "doing the honors," had marked out for themselves rather an extensive programme, and if the weather had been favorable, it would have been carried out according to the arrangement. "A turn out" in full strength was contemplated, and a pleasant drive for a few miles would have presented an array not frequently seen in either town or country. The heavens, however, "were not propitious," and if a snow storm drove back Napoleon from Moscow, we need not be surprised if a similar occurrence on a small scale prevented the brethren from meeting on the Square and driving off in procession in "fast time." The other parts of the arrangements which admitted of in door work, were well attended to and carried out successfully.

The business of the year was closed up—Officers appointed for the ensuing year, and duly installed in the following order:—

Harvey Phinney, W M; William Masson, Jr., I P M; Edmund J. Ozer, S W; Wm C. Anslow, J W; John Fish, Treas; Chas S Ramsay, Secy; Alex R Ramsay, S D; Richard Southwood, J D; J S Benson, S S; J B Newman, J C; Matthew Russell, Marshall; Rowland Gitchell, I G.

In the evening the members of the Lodge, with a number of ladies and gentlemen—invited guests, sat down to a repast at Witherell's Hotel. A pleasant and jovial evening followed, recitation and song—wit, with good humor, and repartee, with pleasantry, made the night pass so rapidly that time appeared to have added an additional feather to his wings, and to have sped on more rapidly than usual. The list of toasts were responded to with a readiness and eloquence that added much to the interest of the evening. "Our next merry meeting;" was given as the last toast of the evening, after which Auld Lang Syne and God Save the Queen were sung, and the company dispersed to their homes, highly delighted with the pleasant and social evening's intercourse.

We clip the following from the *Daily Morning News*, of St. John, 1st Feb., 1869:

"FUNERAL.—The funeral of the late Mr. J. A. Wilson yesterday afternoon was very large, and the services in connexion with it of a very solemn and impressive character. About one hundred and seventy-five members of the Masonic Fraternity