

I have great cause, I think, to regret the course I then took, for I cannot but feel now that our Gr. Lodge has, under the existing facts, ignored its action on the New York case, violated the comity due the Gr. Lodge of England, and thus committed two faults from the effects of which it should endeavour to escape; and that I did not adhere to my first views and express them, is to me a source of great mortification.

I see it stated in the "Mirror and Keystone," that in Canada West, there are 51 English and 14 Irish Lodges—that 14 English and 14 Irish Lodges were represented in the Convention which ultimately resulted in the formation of the new Grand Lodge in Canada, and that, since the latter event 4 English Lodges and 1 Irish have re-joined their allegiance. That, in Montreal, I learned to Henry "there were 12 English and Wm. 1 Scotch Lodge—10 English, 1 Irish, and seated in Convention, and 1 Irish representative abandoned the Convention party and returned to their allegiance. That, in "Quebec and Three Rivers," there were 3 English Lodges, 1 Irish, and 1 Scotch, the Irish and Scotch Lodges being the only ones represented in the Convention, and that they have returned to their allegiance.

It would thus appear, that, instead of being a movement of unanimity among the masons of Canada, one in which the private Lodges, with scarcely an exception participated, and to which the three Provincial Grand Lodges offered no obstacle, it was the movement of the brethren of but 41 Lodges out of 84, and that of the 41 nine have since refused to acknowledge the new Gr. Lodge, thus showing, that, if the persons professing to represent them, acted in that respect by authority, they went too far when they attempted to bind them to this forcible separation. I was deceived, and I think the brethren acting upon the matter, were equally mistaken, in the language and terms of the manifesto issued by the New Grand Lodge, and asking a recognition of their authority. I believed that the 41 Lodges referred to by them, comprised all the Lodges within the jurisdiction of the three Pro. Gr. Lodges, or so near all as to make it equivalent to a unanimous desire on their part for the change, and that, although perfect unanimity would, of itself, have been no just ground for the recognition of rebellion and disobedience to lawful authority, yet that it would have sanctioned a separation made for purposes of harmony, without feelings of hostility to the parent body, and with such obvious and palpable evils, growing out of the previous relations. It had been also stated, in a semi-official form, that the Gr. Lodge of Ireland had assented to the Lodges under her jurisdiction assuming the independent character referred to, and it was not supposed that the Gr. Lodge of England would interpose an objection to a like course, on the part of the Lodges, under her jurisdiction, when they unanimously presented themselves in that attitude. It would, however, now appear that it is a mere schism among the brethren, like the State of New York, differing from the latter however in having been peacefully made, but from causes of mere inconvenience in the working of the details, while the latter alleged deprivation of rights secured by compact.

As you were Chairman of the Committee to whom the subject referred at our last communication, I have referred the enclosed paper to you, and now request, that you will see the other two members of that Committee, Bros. Heath and Page, and jointly give the matter as it now stands, your serious consideration, and

prepare such report thereon in writing, as will enable you to present it to the Grand Lodge at its next special communication on the 24th inst. I intend to make the call for that assembly of the craft subservient, as well to the purposes of our proposed celebration, as to the consideration of this subject, and intend officially referring the latter matter at that time, to the old Committee. And hence my desire that you should have the advantage of the time between this date and the 24th inst., to give it some consideration.

I would respectfully direct your attention to the last No. of Bro. Moore's Masonic Magazine for a long editorial; expressive of his views, and to the last No. of the Mirror and Keystone for an extract from the address of Gr. Master Evans of New York, on the same subject.

With considerations of fraternal regard.

(Signed) CHAS. S. FRAILEY.
Gr. Master.

To B. B. FRENCH, Esq.,
M. W. Past Gr. Master.

This letter, the circular accompanying the same, and an article in the June number of Bro. Moore's Freemason's Magazine, induced the Chairman of your Committee to believe that the Committee had acted without that deep consideration that a subject of such importance demanded, and in a letter to Bro. Moore, dated June 30th, and published in the Magazine, he (the chairman of your Committee) amongst other things, used the following language:—"I do not hesitate to say that, had I known what I now know, I should not have reported as I did, without very much more consideration."

Your Chairman, it will be seen, expressed no opinion contrary to the one expressed in the resolutions reported by him, but he thought that a more careful and full examination of the matter was due to its grave and important character.

At a meeting of the Grand Lodge, on the 24th of June, the Grand Master brought the subject again before it, and it was again referred to your Committee, "that" to use the language of the Grand Secretary, "they might fully re-examine the subject."

Your Committee have taken great pains to procure all the information they could relative to the subject, and have entered upon the duty of re-examining it with the full purpose of doing masonic justice to all the parties concerned; and after reading every paper before them, and weighing the whole matter as carefully as it was in their power to do, they can now only reiterate the conclusion to which they came in May last.

They will now proceed to give the reasons that have led them to the conclusion above expressed, and as the subject is of so much importance the Grand Lodge must pardon them if they occupy considerable time in so doing.

Upon a careful re-perusal of the circular of the "Grand Lodge of Canada," your Committee have not been able to find what the circular of the Grand Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge denominates "statements which are not borne out by facts." Nor do they find anything in the former circular, which would lead them to suppose that the action of the 41 Lodges assembled at Hamilton on the 10th day of October, 1855, was the unanimous action of the craft in Canada.

That circular commences by stating the

plain fact that "the Freemasons of Canada, to the number of 41 Lodges, having united in the establishment of a Grand Lodge of Canada," &c., your Committee do not find that any one denies this statement.

The circular proceeds, by giving the reasons why this assemblage of 41 Lodges, thought themselves justified in forming an independent Grand Lodge in Canada, and, so far from attempting to controvert those reasons, the Provincial Grand Secretary, in his circular, admits the force of them, by saying, "nearly the entire craft agree in the belief that an independent organization is essential to the proper and effectual working of the craft in this Province."

The reasons thus given we will briefly state.

1. The absence of that progress in the masonic art which has invariably attended the existence of duly constituted Lodges in other countries.
2. Want of harmony consequent upon the establishment of Lodges hailing from Grand Lodges of different countries.
3. The injustice of the requirement of the Grand Lodges of Great Britain, that the Canadian Lodges should contribute to their funds, in addition to having to support three Provincial Grand Lodges, and to aid and assist brethren emigrating from the Mother Country—thus doubly taxing the Canadian Fraternity.
4. The inconvenience, fully and clearly set forth at length, of the distance between the Provincial Lodges and the controlling power.
5. The appointment of the Provincial Grand Master by the Provincial Grand Master of England, and the nomination by him of all the other Provincial Grand Officers to the Grand Master of England for his confirmation,* thus depriving the Canadian Lodges of any voice of control in the selections of their Grand Officers.

The circular of the Independent Grand Lodge then goes on to state, what your Committee believe to be fully sustained by other evidence before them, that "The foregoing sentiments were participated in by the whole of the Masonic Fraternity, with scarcely an individual exception."

Following this a clear and concise statement is made of the several steps taken by the "Provincial Grand Lodge," from 1852 onward, to induce "The Grand Lodge of England," to authorize the establishing of an Independent Grand Lodge in Canada—to induce that Grand Lodge to suffer the Provincial Grand Lodge to retain all fees arising from the working of the craft, and to permit them, at least the poor boon of electing their own Provincial Grand Master.

To these reasonable requests the Grand Lodge of England made no reply, and further efforts were made, first through the Grand Secretary, and then through the Grand Registrar, "respectfully calling attention to the petitions, and begging that they might be favored with consideration and some reply."

"These applications," say they, "appear to have been alike unavailing in procuring from the Grand Lodge of England any consideration of the claims of the masons of Canada, for, at a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, on the 14th of July last, [1855] it was officially announced that no reply had been received from the Grand Lodge of England to any of these communications."

*The P. G. M. does not nominate but appoints.—ED. PIONEER.