

every person was satisfied, we are quite sure, and that he added largely to the previously enviable reputation of the Pavillion, there can be no doubt.—*Vermont Patriot and State Gazette.*

GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

The following article we copy from the last number of the *Mirror and Keystone*. Our contemporary has fallen into a slight mistake; but one which does not render his remarks one whit less appropriate and forcible. The petition alluded to by the Grand Master of England in his speech, was evidently that sent to him by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada west in 1853, and not the address of the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada. This petition, praying to be permitted to elect their own Grand Master, to appoint their own D.D.G. Masters, &c., &c., was, if we mistake not, unanimously adopted by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada west, and transmitted to the Grand Secretary of England. One year elapsed and no reply. A petition of remonstrance was adopted, and ordered to be transmitted through the Grand Registrar. Another year passed, still no reply. In July 1855, the P.G. Lodge appointed Bro. Townend, of London, England, agent to look after these petitions! On the 21st of Sept., 1855, a few days before the Convention was held at Hamilton, the Provincial Grand Secretary, Bro. Richardson, issued a manifesto to the Lodges in C.W., in which he states, among other things, that information had been received from Bro. Townend, stating "that the papers and documents, sent at different times from the Grand Lodge, including the Petition to the M. W. Grand Master, were never out of the Grand Secretary's office, and had never been seen by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, or by any one, outside of the Grand Secretary's office. In his last letter he requests and recommends the Brethren under this jurisdiction to wait patiently a little longer, as there is now no doubt of our shortly receiving an answer to our Petition." It would now seem that this was a mere trick, designed to deter the Craft from decisive action, in forming a Grand Lodge, by inducing the belief that their grievances would soon be mitigated. That it had its intended effect in preventing the co-operation of certain Lodges and Brethren, there can be no doubt. But "murder will out." It now appears plainly enough, that if these Petitions had "not been seen out of the Grand Secretary's office," they had been seen within it, and that too, by the Grand Master himself; and that he, after "deliberately weighing the subject," considered the desire of the Petitioners so "preposterous that he decided to take no notice of it whatever." "He is now satisfied that his judgment was correct, for he has reasons for knowing, that a very large proportion of the Canadian Brethren desire to hold fast their allegiance to the United Grand

Lodge of England. We can inform his Lordship that a much larger proportion have let go their hold, and now enjoy what he thought it preposterous in them to desire. A result to which his negligence and imbecility have largely contributed.

The Grand Lodge of England held its quarterly communication on the 5th of March last, as we have already informed our readers, and the Earl of Zetland was declared re-elected Grand Master, although not nominated at that meeting according to the usual custom. His inattention to the duties of his office and his neglect of the Craft, caused a feeling of indifference on the part of members of the Grand Lodge toward him, which was manifested in a prudent manner by their silence.

On the 30th of March the Grand Lodge again convened for a Grand Festival. At this meeting the Earl of Zetland was present and presided. After the reading of the minutes declaring his re-election, he addressed the Grand Lodge, and thanked the brethren for their confidence in re-electing him. The Grand Master in a few brief remarks alluded to the petition addressed to the Grand Lodge of England (published in our columns) by the Grand Lodge of Canada, and his course, to our mind, was unmasonic and ungentlemanly. The petition, as our readers are aware, is couched in the most respectful language; it contains a narrative of facts and grievances, and is altogether as strong and forcible a document as ever emanated from any body of men. Its truthfulness and propriety was so apparent to the Grand Lodges of Connecticut, Vermont, District of Columbia, and others in the United States, and also the Grand Lodge of Ireland, that after maturely weighing the subject they freely and fully extended a fraternal recognition to the new Grand Lodge.

The Earl of Zetland may not be aware of the fact, but we can assure him that the Grand Lodges that have recognized the Grand Lodge of Canada are as intelligent, have as high a regard for the honor and dignity of the Institution, and as clear a conception of right and wrong as any body of men in the world, not excepting the Grand Lodge of England, or its Grand Master. We copy the whole of his remarks in relation to the petition.

"The petition in question was of a most sweeping character; it asked that the Canadian brethren should elect their own Grand Master, appoint District Grand Masters, control and dispose of the Funds of Benevolence, and, in short, he did not see what was to be left to the supreme Grand Lodge at all. After deliberately weighing the subject, he considered he should not be doing his duty if he gave a consent to the prayer of the petition; and from information he had received, it appeared that the petition was not a unanimous one of the brethren of Canada, but resulted from only a portion of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada West; he, therefore, not liking to tell the petitioners that their desire was most preposterous decided to take no notice whatever of it, and he was now satisfied that his judgment was correct, for he had reasons for knowing that a very large proportion of the Canadian brethren desired to hold fast their allegiance to the United G. Lodge of England."

We respectfully submit if such an act of discourtesy is becoming in one occupying high official station? What! Not to notice a respectful document coming from a body repre-

senting forty-one Masonic Lodges! Not to notice a respectful communication of any kind is contemptible in itself, but to treat with silent contempt a petition emanating from a body representing a large constituency, betrays a littleness that no gentleman having a regard for the rights of others will be guilty of. Notwithstanding the Grand Master's want of civility and the proper courtesies, the Grand Lodge of Canada is one of the permanent institutions of the day, and public sentiment will accord to them that which titled position demands them, namely a fraternal recognition as a zealous and a highly honourable body of Freemasons. Because the petition was not unanimous, he cannot act consistent, and because he does not like to tell the petitioners that his views do not accord with them, he must—No matter; we thought the nobility of England were gentlemen, and we are of opinion that most of them are; and we also believe the Brotherhood in England are good and true men, possessing generous hearts and liberal and kind feelings and noble impulses, and who are far above those petty littlenesses manifested by the Earl of Zetland.

The "sweeping character" of the petition consists in claiming what we consider should in all justice have been granted the moment the claim was made. And what are these claims? The petition asks "that the Canadian brethren should elect their own Grand Master, appoint district Grand Masters and control their own funds? They certainly are better capable of judging of the qualifications of their own citizens than the Grand Master some thousands of miles distant; and as to the disposition of their funds, can, anything be more reasonable? And yet the Grand Master thought their request so preposterous that he preferred to take no notice of it whatever, because he did not like to tell the petitioners.

The Grand Lodge of England has been imbecile in its action, especially toward the Provincial Grand Lodges, and we should not be surprised to find others following the example of the Craft in Canada. The London Freemason's Magazine for June has a powerfully written article on the inefficiency of the Earl of Zetland, and we should not be surprised to see the brethren in England at the next election, appear in their might and silently substitute humble efficiency in place of titled inactivity.—*Mirror and Keystone.*

(From the London Freemason's Magazine.)

In our preceding number we drew attention to the address of our Canadian Brethren to the Grand Lodge of England, embodying the reasons of their severance. We now return to this painful topic, and whilst a host of correspondents has given us ample proof that the spirit of Freemasonry yet lives, and breathes an earnest sympathy with our transatlantic members, we think it our duty to inform the Craft, that, from accounts newly received from other quarters, not only the union, but the very liberty and almost the existence of the Order is threatened. It is a melancholy office to receive, now that the evil is done in great measure, promises from active resolvers, *ex post facto* watchmen, who are all pulling at the door of the stable, where the horse used to stand. Of course if those who wish to stay the future baneful effects of the Grand Lodge's apathy and incompetency be sincere, we shall afford them in this paper ample incentive, for their most vigilant and earnest exertion, since it will appear not only that the Canadas are lost to us, but that the grossest persecutions are allowed to occur against our brethren in Trinidad and Malta, which we fearlessly assert would at once be checked by an energetic action upon the part of the Masons here. We don't hold out much hope of any thing being done by the Grand Lodge