

### Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Below may be found the Report of the Committee of the Grand Lodge of Ireland on the subject of the difficulties in the Institution in Canada. It is a temperately written and important document, and is well worthy the careful perusal of every Orangeman in Canada. The sentiments of union and fraternity which it inculcates are peculiarly characteristic of the Orangemen of Ireland.

To the Right Worshipful and Right Honourable the Earl of Enniskillen, Grand Master of the Orangemen, of Ireland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,—

In obedience to the resolution passed at the meeting of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, whereby the correspondence which has taken place between your Lordship and certain of the Orangemen of British North America was referred to us, we beg leave to submit the following as our Report:—

1. The Deputy Grand Secretary, Bro. Moore, laid before us copies of the correspondence of the Right Worshipful the Grand Master, with Brothers Benjamin and Gowan of the Grand Lodge of British North America, held September last, and also several Canadian newspapers, containing communications and articles relating to the unhappy differences then the subject of controversy amongst the Brethren in British North America.

2. The parties at the Grand Lodge meeting in June, who respectively supported Brothers Benjamin and Gowan's election to the office of Grand Master; each claimed to have a majority of legal votes, and each has since assumed to itself the rights and functions of the Grand Lodge of British North America, under the several Grand Masterships of Brothers Benjamin and Gowan, and held meetings and published reports.

3. In perusing both reports of the division, which took place at the Grand Lodge meeting in June, it is manifest whichever side had a majority of legally constituted votes, that the majority was a very large one, and as such, if upon no other grounds, was entitled to the respect and consideration of the majority, and it must be by the great Body of the Brethren in America, as it is by us, remembered with sorrow, that sufficient efforts were not then made to effect a reconciliation or arrangement which might have prevented the great evils that must flow from so deplorable a separation in the Councils of the Brethren.

4. In the published reports, and in Canadian newspapers, legal disqualifications and strong personal objections have been urged against both these Brethren, and sometimes in language used by the writers in seeming forgetfulness, that they applied it to Brethren who had each for years been the trusted and lauded heads of their Institution, and that they thereby afforded a triumph to the enemies of the cause which they are bound to uphold.

5. Communications have been received by the Right Worshipful the Grand Master of Ireland, from Brothers Benjamin and Gowan, and, as is natural, each represents the other party as disorderly and schismatic. Resolutions have been reciprocally passed, warning all Brethren against fellowship with either, &c. Now the Grand Lodge of Ireland had for some years back the happiness of recognizing in their Canadian Brethren a large body united in the support of the noble principles on which our glorious Institution is founded, and conducting their proceedings with such intelligence, energy and unanimity, as to extend their numbers beyond all previous expectation, and also materially to assist in maintaining and advancing Protestantism and Loyalty in the Empire at large. The Grand Lodge of Ireland felt that any interference with so flourishing a section of our Insti-

tution would be not only unnecessary but mischievous, and accordingly refused all applications from British America for Warrants or other proceedings which might impede the harmonious and united working of the system in those provinces. The Grand Lodge of Ireland thus gladly and fully recognizing the perfect independence and authority of the Grand Lodge of British North America.

6. The communications before us have, however, raised for the consideration of the Grand Master now, and subsequently for that of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, a different point, the recognition of Brothers Benjamin and Gowan as Grand Master, or even as Orangemen, or either of the bodies they preside over as the Grand Lodge of British North America. On a careful review of the many documents brought before us, we find objections have been urged in regard to the individual conduct and character of those Brethren. It, considering the force of the objections, becomes important to observe how the Orange body in America had previously dealt with them. In 1840 the same objections to Brother Gowan were brought forward, and yet we find he was re-elected to the office of Grand Master, and continued it up to 1844, when he resigned. Still it appears the confidence of the Brethren in him was so great that he was subsequently re-appointed Grand Master—Brother Benjamin filled the same office from 1846 to 1851, when a vote of respect for his indefatigable exertions was passed and he was unanimously re-elected. With such facts on record, when it became necessary for the Grand Master of Ireland to answer the letters of Brothers Benjamin and Gowan, he could not, on the grounds of a disputed election, refuse to either the appellation of a Brother or appear to decide on the validity of such election, by addressing either exclusively as Grand Master.

7. The Committee might not have thought it necessary to make any special report on the subject, but have contented themselves with a reference to the opinion of the Grand Lodge, as expressed at their meeting in November last, of the inexpediency of any interference by them with the internal affairs of their Brethren in Canada, were it not that newspapers, &c., since the meeting shew that the letters of the Grand Master of Ireland have been misunderstood, and have been published as affording evidence of the opinion of himself and of the Grand Lodge of Ireland in favour of one party amongst the Brethren in America. The use of the ordinary courteous style of address between Brethren, and the reference to the oft expressed determination of the Grand Lodges of Ireland not to grant Warrants to, or otherwise interfere with, the Brethren in Canada, were not sufficient data whence to draw such a conclusion. It may, therefore, be desirable that the Brethren in British North America should at an early period be made aware that in his letters, the Grand Master, and in their resolutions the Grand Lodge, of Ireland, have refrained from expressing any opinion on the recent dispute in Canada.

8. We cannot conclude our report without assuring the Brethren of British North America that we must deeply lament the severance of these ties of Brotherhood which should now, as heretofore, subsist amongst them. We would earnestly and affectionately implore them that laying aside all bitterness of feeling and acerbity of language, they would in the spirit of love and forbearance, diligently undertake the reconciliation of all differences that so injuriously affect the charm or interest of our beloved Institution, which must be dear to them all; nor will we allow ourselves to doubt that the good sense of the Orangemen of British North America and their attachment to their hitherto prosperous Association will, under the Divine blessing, insure the happy result.

9. With respect to the primary cause of dispute among the Brethren, it may not be out of place to state that a reference to our rules will show that our Institution is exclusively Protestant, but formed to support objects, all, however, tending to the maintenance of Protestantism in religion and government. The Grand Lodge has always taken on itself the right and duty of directing how far the Institution shall, from time to time, undertake political action on

each occurring emergency. The circumstances before us do not show that the fundamental principle of the Institution in British North America differ in this respect from ours. Might not the devolving on the Grand Lodge the decision of any political question so as to bind each member, be a means under the Divine blessing of removing some of those causes of complaint now so strongly urged by both parties? Our Grand Master has already stated that a refusal to permit proxies has been found to work well. It is not for us to say how far the circumstances of the American Provinces make an opposite course expedient, but surely a meeting of the Representatives of the whole body could easily define the limit and mode of appointing proxies. With us Lodges are represented by Officers of County Lodges and members of a Grand Committee, appointed from each County. We would assure Trans-Atlantic Brethren that these suggestions, and the statement of our practice, are not offered in the slightest spirit of dictation, but with the hope that their consideration might lead to some amicable arrangement of the recent differences.

10. The suggestions offered to the Grand Master of Ireland to convene a meeting of delegates from all Countries, to settle an uniform system for the Institution, would not be practicable. The law in Ireland forbids the use of signs and passwords, and thus prevents the union of the Irish Institution with that in other Countries where such law does not exist and such symbols are used.

11. Anxious to refrain from any suggestion which might appear at such a painful crisis unwelcome or ill-timed, we affectionately hope that our beloved Canadian Brethren will excuse a reference to one part of their proceedings, which has filled us with great sorrow. We refer to the publication in newspapers, &c., of their respective statements and recriminations. The long experience of the Grand Lodge of Ireland has never concurred in enforcing the Rule of their Institution, which deprecates all such publicity save and except under the highest and most deliberate sanction of the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Be it remembered, that in such publications, the honour, the prosperity, and the efficiency of the Orangemen of the world are involved and that unmitigated sorrow must pervade the hearts of all true Brethren, not only cause of division and hearburnings existing among the brave and tried men of Canada, but still more because all these differences are exhibited to the gratification of the adversary, and aid to the strengthening of his power to do evil.

12. Our hearts and our prayers are with the beloved and forgotten Brethren of the Colonies. We see the traitorous publications of the Empire daring to prophesy her dismemberment and the future ascendancy of Popery and Despotism—but our spirits are ever refreshed when we turn our eyes to the gallant, the intelligent, the devoted and united Orangemen of the Colonies, many of whom have shared our councils, knelt with us in the same Lodge Room, and marched at our side in old times, under the flag that never knew defeat or dishonour. By the principle of the Institution which we venerate by the memory of our warrior fore-fathers,—by the Holy Word of God which is to us most dear—and by the love which the Redeemer indelucated and illustrated in life and in death.—Let us be of one mind, and live in peace, and the God of Love and Peace shall be with us.

EDWARD WALLER, D. G. G.

THOS. F. MILLAR, D. G. G.

THOS. DREW, D D D G. G.

J. H. MOORE, D. G. S.

ENNISKILLEN,

G. M.

United Kingdom.

**HAY FOR THE WAR.**—Several of the most powerful hydraulic presses of Leeds are at present engaged in compressing hay purchased in the neighbourhood for the cavalry ordered to the seat of war. For convenience of carriage, the hay is being compressed to the smallest practicable limits.