

of Manitoba, Dominion of Canada, this twelfth day of November, A.D. 1878.

"(Signed,) GEO. F. NEWCOMBE,
"Grand Master.

ATTEST, "JOHN H. BELL,
[SEAL.] "Grand Secretary."

The W. M. of Lisgar Lodge was peremptorily summoned to appear before the Board on the evening of the 20th Nov., as were the brethren who left Grand Lodge without permission, but one only appeared, namely Jos. Hursell.

Bro. W. N. Kennedy, however, appeared apparently for all the offenders, and desired that no action be taken by the Board against any of the offending brethren, as it would tend to destroy the efforts which were then being made toward the healing of the difficulties, and in the hope of which, he stated no meeting had been held by Conklin, as per his clandestine notice of the 11th and 12th November.

Being desirous to avoid publicity of the clandestine movements of Conklin and others, and anxious to effect if possible a settlement of the assumed difficulties then existing, the Board adjourned without taking action against any of the offenders, pending the result of the movement referred to.

In order to preserve a complete statement of the efforts made to heal the differences that have existed in Grand Lodge. I may here state that certain prominent members of that Lodge, representing unofficially both sides, met informally to consider measures for the peaceful solution of the difficulties existing in the Masonic fraternity. The aggrieved brethren, after consultation, drew up the following document:—

"To the M. W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba.

"We, the undersigned, for the peaceful solution of the difficulties at present existing in the Masonic fraternity, beg to submit the following:—

"1st. That for ten years no particular ritual be enforced by Grand Lodge upon the subordinate Lodges at present existing in its jurisdiction, and that it be left open to future Lodges that may be formed to choose for themselves between the rituals known as Canadian and Ancient York.

"2nd. That all past differences and disagreements be and are hereby settled, and that members of the Order be placed upon the same Masonic standing as that in which they were before such differences arose.

"3rd. That on the two preceding recommendations being accepted and acted upon, we promise to give our entire support and allegiance to the Grand Lodge as at present constituted.

"4th. That in no action taken in the past by the brethren whose names are hereto attached, was there any intention of offer-

ing any insult to either the Grand Master or any other officer of Grand Lodge.

"5th. That we pledge ourselves to support in the Grand Lodge, and in every other way in our power, to carry out the spirit of the foregoing."

It is quite evident from the tone of the above document that all the business transacted at the last Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge would have been pronounced by the principal malcontents who signed it, "just, perfect and regular," had the question of ritual been conceded; and the brethren who are responsible for the "unfortunate difference" allowed to resume the standing in Grand Lodge which they had forfeited in the manner already described.

An informal meeting of brethren from both sides anxious "for the peaceful solution of the difficulties at present existing in the Masonic fraternity" was held, but the difficulty of considering a document signed, it was understood, by suspended brethren met them at the threshold. To overcome this difficulty the brethren having charge of the document consented to withdraw the signatures, when its consideration was decided on.

The meeting named certain brethren from each side with power to consider the whole question and report. This committee met, appointed a Chairman and Secretary, and considered the situation very fully, when it was agreed that the chairman draw up a report which would be a fair compromise, and restore to the Grand Lodge that peace all professed so much to desire.

The following is a copy of the report:—
"The committee of Masons and members of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba informally and unofficially but voluntarily constituted for the purpose of enquiring into the cause and finding, if possible, a solution of the difficulties at present existing in the Masonic fraternity of this Province, have the honor to report:—

"1st. That in their opinion the existing difficulties are not of such a nature as to justify the disruption of the Grand Lodge as at present constituted.

"2nd. The committee recommend that the question of ritual, which they understood to be the principal cause of dissatisfaction, be finally decided at the ensuing Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, and that the decision then arrived at by a majority vote be made final, and as far as possible binding upon future Grand Lodge, or changed only by mutual consent, and upon proof that such change will be for the good of Masonry in this Province.

"3rd. The committee recommend that in the mean time all past differences and disagreements be settled, and that members of the Order be placed upon the same Masonic standing as they were before such difficulties arose; it being understood, how-