

trols her own revenues—her own commerce—her own educational institutions—and her own internal and domestic affairs generally. Do Ireland and Scotland the same?—Certainly not. On what ground then, are independent Grand Lodges tolerated in these countries, and to be denied to Canada? So utterly fallacious—not to say stupid, is this argument, that we deem it entirely unnecessary to bestow upon it any farther attention. The political connection of Canada with Great Britain, can no more preclude her from the right to have an independent Grand Lodge, than can that of Massachusetts—New York, or any other American State, (to say nothing of the Territories) with the *United States*, preclude them from the same privilege. They are no more absolute independent political organizations than is Canada. She is connected with, and in some sense, subordinate to the general Government of Great Britain. They are connected with, and in some sense, subordinate to the general Government of the *United States*. So little difference is there—*twixt tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee.*"

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West.

A printed circular, purporting to have been issued by the authority of this P.G.L., in May last, states that the number of Lodges still under its jurisdiction, true to their allegiance is forty-six. This sounds "very big" abroad, and was intended no doubt to induce the belief that the independent Grand Lodge is, after all, comparatively a very small affair, while the P.G.L., is strong and vigorous. But at home it is well known that one half these Lodges exist merely on paper, and the greater number of the other half are in a sickly, or torpid state. We wish our brethren at a distance to bear in mind that such has been the negligence of the officers of our Provincial Grand Lodges, and of the Grand Lodge of England, that scores of Lodges "stand good" upon their registers, which ceased to exist years ago. In our July number we gave an example of this, in the case of the little District of Montreal and William Henry, showing six Lodges duly registered, not one of which exists at all.

The same circular states, that "the alleged cause which immediately led to the formation of the new body (Grand Lodge of Canada) was the refusal of the R.W.D.G.M., at a special meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge held at the Clifton House, Niagara Falls, on the 19th of July last, to submit a motion from the chair, which if carried, would have led to immediate and open rebellion on the part of the Canadian Craft to their Mother Grand Lodges."

Now, we happened to be present at this meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West; and having been sent there to

learn and report to the brethren in Eastern Canada the true condition of the craft, we took full and accurate minutes of all its proceedings. These proceedings have never been published. An abridged, garbled statement was printed and sent abroad, well calculated, if not intended, to deceive the craft, as to the true sentiments and feelings of the brethren there assembled. The rebellious resolutions and amendments, together with the petition which gave rise to them, is all we can find room to publish. These the ultimate object of which, as will be seen, was the same, taken in connection with the fact that no one was found to offer a motion, or an amendment of an opposite character, show clearly enough, what was the prevailing opinion and desire of the craft assembled at the Clifton House—and do not lend much support to the truth of the statement, that there are still forty-six living Lodges in connection with the P.G.L. of Canada West. We have no hesitation in saying, that but for the appearance of J. H. of Kingston, and T. D. H. Quebec—several hours after the commencement of the discussion (the latter in such a state of—as would have rendered his immediate expulsion from any well regulated Lodge, certain,) the amended motion as proposed by Rev. Dr Lundy, would have been "put from the chair," and not three votes would have been recorded against it. But these parties, who had previously conspired to slice Upper Canada into two or three Provincial Districts, for their own especial honor and dignity created, by conduct and language, we venture to say, unexampled in any Masonic Lodge on earth, the most perfect storm of confusion possible to conceive, in the midst of which the *meeting broke up!* and a very large majority of the brethren immediately repaired to the Drawing-Room of the Clifton House, where the first convention was held.

The following is the petition of the Brockville Lodge which was read, and on motion received.

"To the Right Worshipful the Hon. Sir A. N. McNab, P. G. Master and the Brethren of the P. G. Lodge of free and accepted masons in *Canada West*, in Grand Lodge assembled. The petition of the W. Master and Brethren of Brockville Lodge. No. 9:

Humbly Sheweth:—

That it is with feelings of deep and heartfelt regret, that your Petitioners observe the slow progress which our beloved and time-honored Institution has made in the Province, when compared with the vast strides which it has and is taking in the United States.

That in the opinion of your Petitioners, this is caused mainly by the want of energetic action on the part of the C. L. of England, and the delay that has been generally experienced in receiving answers to communications sent to that venerable body, on matters of the utmost importance to the Fraternity, as it is shown by a resolution passed by your Provincial Grand Lodge, on the 9th of May 1854. That

large sums of money are annually sent to the Grand Lodge of England for charters, Master Masons certificates, &c., which, if retained in this country would tend greatly to the advancement and prosperity of the fraternity.

That in the opinion of your Petitioners the time has now arrived for the Brotherhood in this great and rising Colony, to request from the G. L. of England, that freedom in Masonic Legislation, which has been conceded to our Provincial Legislature by the Mother Country.

That in order to obtain this desirable object, we deem it of the utmost importance, that an effort be made by your Provincial Grand Lodge, either by taking the sense of the delegates of the various Lodges to be assembled on the 19th of this month, at Niagara Falls, or such other mode as may seem advisable, as to the expediency of erecting a Grand Lodge of Canada.

That it is advisable in order to give this the utmost effect, that the Provincial Grand Lodges of Lower Canada, as well as Lodges holding charters under the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland, be solicited to join in this movement of procuring the erection of a Grand Lodge for the whole of Canada.

Should the prayer of your Petitioners be granted, there is every reason to believe, that ere long the whole craft in the Province will be united and connected in one harmonious body, working under its own Grand Lodge, with District Grand Lodges under its jurisdiction, in almost every County in the Province.

And as in duty bound your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

W. B. SIMPSON, W.M.
SAMUEL ROSS, S.W.
THOMAS CAMM, J.W.

Brockville, July 16, 1855.

Moved by Bro. J. Harding, seconded by Bro. Merrill.

"That the Petition of the W. Master and Brethren of the Brockville Lodge be adopted, and that the sense of the delegates of the various Lodges here assembled, be now taken as to the expediency of applying to the Grand Lodge of England to erect a Grand Lodge of Canada."

After considerable discussion Bro. Walter McCrea moved in amendment.

"That this Grand Lodge concur in the views enunciated by the Petition of the W. Master and Brethren of Lodge No. 9, and deem it highly expedient for the best interests of the craft at large, and in the Province of Canada, that a separate and independent Grand Lodge having jurisdiction over the whole craft therein should be established."

After a discussion of more than one hour, Bro. Dr. Lundy, P.G. Chaplain, moved in amendment—to the previous amendment—seconded by Bro. Stephens.

"That a meeting of Delegates from all Lodges in the Province, under whatever jurisdiction, be invited to meet at an early date to co-operate in the formation of an independent Grand Lodge of Canada, and to take the necessary steps for communicating on the subject with the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland.

Here, then, we have the motion *verbatim et literatim*, which, if carried, we are told, would have "led to immediate and open re-