

letter to you of the 1st Nov. last, is that very shortly after the Convocation of your Grand Chapter in that month he was informed that M. Ex. Companion Clark, who was not unfriendly to Companion Mason, had been elected G. H. P. in place of M. Ex. Companion Lerner, and as the difficulty was purely a personal one between those two Companions, and no answer to my letter of the 1st Nov. was sent, or any intimation that your Grand Chapter or the M. Ex. G. H. P. still desired a change of Representatives, the Grand Z. supposed and hoped that under the altered circumstances the difficulty was at an end, and no further action was necessary. Any intimation from him to the contrary, in reply to my letter, would have received immediate attention. As the report above alluded to contains nothing to indicate whether it is still the desire that Companion Mason's commission should be cancelled, but merely expresses the opinion that it ought to have been done when first requested by M. Ex. Comp. Lerner, and as some intimation of the kind seems to be necessary under the altered circumstances of the case, caused by the changes in the executive of your Grand Chapter (we have personally no cause of complaint against, or dissatisfaction with R. Ex. Companion Mason,) I shall feel obliged by your submitting this letter to the M. Ex. G. H. P., and communicating to me his wishes at your earliest possible convenience.

Believe me to remain,

Dear Sir and R. Ex. Companion,

Yours truly and fraternally,

(Signed),

R. P. STEPHENS,

*Grand Scribe E*

L. G. STEPHENS, ESQ., Grand Sec'y Grand  
Chapter, D. of C., Washington, U. S. ;

I had hoped to have received a reply to this communication before the close of this Convocation, and that I should have been able to announce to you that these unpleasant difficulties had been amicably arranged, but up to the present moment no reply has been received.

I have to inform you that the Special Committee appointed at the last Convocation of Grand Chapter, to procure and present to M. Ex. Companions, Harman, Macdonell, and Seymour, each with a Past Grand Z's. jewel, to mark their appreciation of the distinguished services rendered to Grand Chapter by those Most Ex. Companions, have performed their duty; the presentation having been made by R. Ex. Companion Spry, Chairman of the Committee, whose known ability well fitted him for that pleasing duty.

On the 24th ult., I received an official communication from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Canada, notifying me of the expulsion by that Grand Body of a number of Masons for causes set forth in the address of the Grand Master, and further, that such notification was sent to me with the view of my taking such action against such of the number as were Royal Arch Masons, as I might deem just and reasonable in the premises. It will be quite unnecessary for me to recapitulate the causes which have led to this most painful result, as, doubtless, all are fully cognizant of the facts. The perverse conduct these misguided persons have chosen to adopt, both before and since their expulsion, shows an utter abandonment of Masonic principles, is entirely subversive of all Masonic authority, and must call forth the condemnation of every loyal and true hearted Mason. Under these circumstances, and believing that the welfare and prosperity of our beloved order require that some prompt and decided action should be taken in regard to those of the offending members who are Royal Arch Masons, I have decided to bring the subject at once under the notice of Grand Chapter, and to avoid unnecessary delay, I instructed Grand Scribe E. to summon those Companions who are Royal Arch Masons to appear before this Convocation to show cause why they should not be dealt with in the matter as Grand Chapter in its wisdom may deem just and proper. I now leave the matter in your hands, feeling confident that the result of your deliberations in connection with this unfortunate subject (whatever they may be,) will tend to the maintenance of the dignity of Grand Chapter, and in preserving peace and harmony within our ranks.

Companions, when you did me the honor last year to elect me to this most honorable position, it was not without a good deal of trepidation that I assumed the task, feeling, as I did, my inability to successfully cope with many of the more important matters connected with the welfare of the order that might arise during the year; but duly appreciating the kind offers of advice and assistance of some of my predecessors, and relying upon the kind co-operation of my Companions, I entered upon the duties, fully determined to sacredly guard the trust reposed in me, and to devote my best energies in promoting the welfare of our order. If my humble efforts in this respect are