

but not hastily, to lay before the Grand Lodge a plan which he hoped would be satisfactory to all those Grand Lodges, and which would get rid of complaints. He thought it better at present not to pledge himself, or to hint at the plan, but he trusted he would be able to submit a scheme which would remedy the inconveniences, without in any way interfering with the rights of the Grand Master, and without making any fundamental alteration in the Laws of the Constitution of the Order. The Lodges of India would of course, form part of the scheme, although he had not received any complaint from that quarter; on the contrary, he believed they were extremely well disposed to the Grand Lodge of England, and above all things, were averse to separate themselves from their Parent Grand Lodge. He was well aware that he had spoken with some warmth, but if he had said anything offensive to any Brother, he was extremely sorry for it."

Provincial Grand Secretary's Office.
Toronto, Dec. 1855,

To the Worshipful Master of Lodge No.
WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BROTHER:

You are hereby summoned to attend a Special Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge at Toronto, on Thursday, the 8th day of January, 1857.

With reference to this meeting, I have now the honour to hand you a Draft Memorial, prepared in compliance with the Subjoined Resolution, adopted at the Quarterly Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge on the 23d October.

By obtaining the concurrence of every Lodge in the Province before the same is adopted in Provincial Grand Lodge, and forwarded to the Grand Lodge of England, it will be evident that the Memorial will convey in the fullest terms the expression of the entire body of Masons still under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England in this Province.

As the Provincial Grand Lodge will meet for the special object of adopting this Memorial, on the 8th day of January, I am desired to request you will call an immediate Emergency of your Lodge, for the purpose of laying the same before them, and that you will return me a copy of the same as soon after as possible, with an endorsement as follows, or in words to this effect.

"Read in open Lodge at— Approved and confirmed this — day of —, A. D. 1856.
Countersigned, — W. M.
— Secretary. — S. W.
— J. W."

And I shall be happy, if you have time, to receive your views in detail on this most important Memorial.

The feeling in the Provincial Grand Lodge at the time of the appointment of the Committee, was that this was a final effort to obtain in a constitutional manner, that independence of government which the necessities of our Order imperatively require, and that it should be made apparent that no stone has been left unturned to avoid a schism from that Venerable Body in the "Old Country" from which we have derived both our existence and our constitution.

I have the honor to be,
Sir and Brother,
Yours fraternally,

Prov. Grand Secretary.

"That Brethren Harrington, Harman, Richardson, Barron, Whitehead, Cumberland and Harding, be a Committee, to embody fully in a Petition, with ample minutes and dates up to the present time, the grievances and present wants of the Brethren, and that the same be printed and sent round to every Lodge in Canada West retaining its loyal attachment to the mother Grand Lodge of England, for their earnest consideration thereof, and that the R. W. Dep. Grand Master be respectfully requested to call a special meeting to confirm the Petition for transmission to England,

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The Canadian Masonic Pioneer.

MONTREAL, JAN. 1, 1857.

We present our readers to day with the memorial of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, designed to be forwarded to the Grand Lodge of England as "*the last time of asking*," for independence, or the privilege of self-government. With the exception of the address of the Grand Lodge of Canada to her sister Grand Lodges, this is perhaps the most important document ever issued by any body of Masons. We therefore, to the exclusion of almost all other matter, publish it entire and commend it to an attentive perusal.

This memorial, it will be observed, is a splendid, though involuntary, vindication of the proceedings and position of the Grand Lodge of Canada, fully verifying all its statements, and clearly showing that the Lodges and Brethren who formed it had "*waited patiently*," quite long enough, before taking, as justice and duty to the Craft imperatively demanded, the helm of Masonic Government in this province, out of the hands of our trans-Atlantic imbeciles. It contrasts strangely enough with a document which emanated, some little time since, from the same source (See Appendix E.), inasmuch as it forcibly presents the very facts by which the representations of the Grand Lodge of Canada are "*borne out*," instead of denying their existence. It also completely annihilates the slender props, by which it was attempted to support the flimsy fabric of sophistry, erected by Massachusetts and New York, to shelter their unjust and unmasonic—we might say unnatural and unholy proceedings against the great mass of genuine craftsmen in this Province—craftsmen with true hearts and noble souls struggling for emancipation from the grossest neglect and abuses, from evils and "*grievances*" which (as the memorial shows) amounted to curses instead of "*slight inconveniences*." "*Veritas vincit*." And we trust our New York and Massachusetts Brethren, who declined to receive the truth from the Grand Lodge of Canada, will accept it from those who have denounced that body—and will

embrace the earliest opportunity of undoing the injustice and injury which their unwarranted repudiation of the legitimate Independent Grand Lodge of Canada has inflicted.

"Better late than never," is a wholesome old maxim, and we congratulate the Provincial authorities of C. W. upon having, at least, discovered that they have evinced towards the "*August*," (not September or October,) Mother Grand Lodge "*Loyalty*," alias Toadyism enough. But we caution them against "*jumping out of the fryingpan into the fire*." Their position is, even now, sufficiently awkward, and their obstinacy has already made the breach among Canadian Masons too wide.

As long ago as June, 1855, they prevented many Lodges and Brethren from uniting in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada, by issuing an official circular declaring that Canadian Masonic affairs had then been taken up by the Grand Lodge of England in earnest, and that there was every probability that all our grievances would be speedily remedied and our requirements granted. What has been the result? Nothing! worse than nothing done.

Forgetting that it is possible for a "*subject to be more loyal than his sovereign*," they denounced the Grand Lodge of Canada as a schismatic body—pronounced the Brethren under its jurisdiction *Rebels*, and at the earliest possible moment, in the most haughty and high-handed manner, excluded them from the pale of the fraternity, fully expecting that their conduct would be sanctioned and applauded by the Grand Lodge of England. What has been the result? *There expectations have failed*.

Still later, they issued to the Grand Lodges of the world the circular, marked E. in the appendix, in which the Grand Lodge of Canada was accused of "*fraud*," falsehood and misrepresentation—represented as a very small affair—and the masonic world admonished to regard and treat it as a spurious thing, to be spurned with dignified scorn. New York and Massachusetts alone obeyed. Other Grand Lodges, by careful investigation, discovered the true state of the case; and promptly and cordially extended to the repudiated Brethren, the just recognition of their claims, and the warm hand of fraternal fellowship. Now, every statement made—every grievance complained of—every reason assigned by the Grand Lodge of Canada, in justification of her organization and legal position, is confirmed not by admissions merely, but by the explicit, forcible official declaration of facts contained in this memorial.

The presentation of this petition to the

* See London Masonic Magazine for an account of proceedings at the meetings held in September and October.