

cept the appointment of the committee; and as a proof of W. Bro. Burnstein's Masonic knowledge, he actually appointed me as one of its members, even although apart from my position in the Craft, I was not present at the time. I received due notice of the meeting of the committee, and attended at the appointed time and place, and found the committee to consist of: V. W. Bro. Joncas, W. Bro. Tweddell, Bro. John Hunter, Bro. Nathan Burnstein, Bro. John Hurds, and W. Bro. S. J. Burnstein, W. M., *ex officio*. I then informed the W. M. that he had made a sad mistake, not only naming me upon such a committee, but in appointing such a committee at all, before complying with the regulations laid down for guidance in our constitution. I then told the committee that, as a matter of course, I would not act with them, and pointed out the illegality and unconstitutionality of their meeting then at all. My arguments were quite unheeded; and knowing that all there present were ripe and ready for revolt, I thought it was throwing water on a drowned mouse to talk any longer, so left them to their own inventions. Previous to the committee meeting, summonses had been issued for an emergent meeting for the 23rd December, in which the business was stated to be "to take into," &c., an exact copy of the resolution, leaving out the appointment of the committee I have already quoted, but not a word about the reception of the committee report. The Lodge room was crowded; partisans of malcontents had been gathered together from all conceivable quarters, and I saw at a glance that they would carry all before them, when it came to be a question of numbers. The Lodge having been duly opened, V. W. Bro. Joncas rose to read the report of the committee. I at once protested against any such report being read or received; that the committee and its proceedings were alike irregular and illegal; and that according to the summons no such business was to be entertained that evening. I addressed them at some length on the manner in which the business of the lodge had latterly been conducted; and the opposing party, finding that my remarks appeared to have taken some effect, even upon themselves, agreed to give up reading the report, and quashing the proceeding of the committee. However, it was simply "out of the frying-pan into the fire," for the secessionists fell back upon the motion in the summons, and on that passed a resolution to join the so-called "G. L. of Q.," and to have the officers installed under its registry on St. John's day. To this resolution, we could only muster six dissenting voices; and on its being announced as carried, I at once, in due form, declared Harington Lodge, No. 49, under the G. R. of C., its officers and members, with the exception of such officers and members as remained true in their allegiance to the G. L. of C., duly suspended from all masonic powers and privileges until the decision of the M. W. the Grand Master of the G. L. of Canada, was made known in the matter. I then called all the brethren, faithful to the G. L. of C., to retire with me, which we accordingly did.

On St. John's day, at half-past one p. m., the lodge again met; and after all the members had met together, with a whole host of the Quebec rebel elite, and just as they were about to open, I stood forth in the centre of the lodge-room; and having informed all present that Harington Lodge having been duly suspended, its present meeting was illegal; and that it could hold no meetings until your decision on the subject had been known. I then read the document I have already forwarded to you; and in my own name and that of the brethren whose names were appended thereto, I demanded, three separate times, the surrender into our keeping of the warrant of Harington Lodge No. 49, under the G. R. of C. The W. M. refused to deliver it up; and I then told him always to bear in mind that, no matter what he and his followers might do, he would never have it in his power to say that No. 49 had gone over to an illegal and irregular body of Masons. I left; and I understand that the officers were installed under a dispensation from our friend J. H. G. Of course they have carried away all the books, jewels, &c., with the exception of those of the Treasurer, which are in the hands of W. Bro. McCallum; and I have given him orders not to deliver them up to any one, or obey any requisition from the rebels, until your pleasure is known. I have also heard it whispered, and I believe it is true, that as Bros. Bowen, Veasey, Bowles, Leggatt and Thomson, are the managing men of the Masonic Hall Association, should you send us a warrant, they will not allow us to meet in their rooms. Now, as we have no furniture, jewels, or anything in fact, I would like very much to get your advice on this subject; because, to tell the truth, in all my Masonic reading or experience, circumstances similar to those we are now wading through never came under my observation.

Hoping to hear from you soon,

Believe me to remain  
yours fraternally,

(Signed)

A. WALKER, D. D. G. M., Quebec.