

Constitutions were at variance, not that their workings were different, not that they did not practice the true principles of the Order, but that they differed in the opinion as to their form of government. Some desired to owe their allegiance to a local Grand Lodge, and have the power to elect their own officers, while others preferred to leave the appointment of those officers to the Grand Masters of England, Ireland and Scotland, who at a distance of four thousand miles might reasonably be expected to be practically ignorant of the social position and requirements of the craft in Canada. Although our Canadian brethren, owing allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Canada, had applied to the Grand Lodge of England to recognize them as a supreme power, that body for eight years, we believe, owing to misrepresentation of the manner in which the Grand Lodge of Canada was established, declined to extend the recognition requested until the Prince of Wales visited the territory, and from ocular demonstration satisfied himself that the course pursued in establishing a Grand Lodge was strictly in accordance with Masonic law, and that it contained within it many of the prominent residents of the colony, who, although insisting on the right to have local government in Freemasonry, maintained their loyalty and allegiance to the British throne. And be it to the credit of our future king, when he saw the justice of our Canadian brethren in demanding what he considered their right as Masons, with that manly British spirit of fair play which has always characterized his conduct, he represented the actual condition of Freemasonry in Canada on his return to England to the Earl of Zetland, then Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, which resulted in a communication from the Grand Lodge of England to that of Canada in the following words: "Although the circumstances under which the Grand Lodge of Canada has been formed have been before the Grand Mas-

ter in an *unofficial* form for some months, the late period at which the *official* notification arrived might have justified some delay, still feeling strongly the desirableness of some conclusion being arrived at without a period of three months, and the tenor of your communication leading to the belief that the new Grand Lodge of Canada was actuated by a spirit of truly Masonic feeling, and enlarged views for the welfare of our cherished craft, the Grand Master did not hesitate to suggest, for the consideration of the Grand Lodge, the following motion which was adopted with a cordial and Masonic confidence, viz.: 'That official intimation having been received of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Freemasons in Canada, this Grand Lodge recognizes that body as an independent Grand Lodge, having jurisdiction over the Province hitherto known as Canada; and expresses also its desire to entertain henceforth with it such a cordial and fraternal intercourse as will serve to promote the interests of Masonry in both countries.'" This was the result of the Prince of Wales' observations regarding the Grand Lodge of Canada during his visit to that territory, a Grand Lodge which, owing to misrepresentation, had been ignored for eight long years by the Grand Lodge of England; we wonder what will be the result of the appearance of prominent members of the Grand Lodge of England upon the scene in New South Wales. Here we will find a majority of the Order determined to adhere to their form of local government, determined to elect their Grand Lodge officers instead of having them nominated sixteen thousand miles away, and owing allegiance to their local Grand Lodge, already recognized as a sovereign Grand Lodge by thirty-eight others, but for eight years unrecognized by the Grand Lodge of England, and although insisting on local government, Masonically possessing within their breasts feelings truly loyal to the Empire.