

" money had been misapplied, and on further enquiry, they stated the fees to have been paid to the unfortunate Brother Danby; as to their plea of poverty, I observed that in my opinion, any individual to whom the amount of the fee was an object, was a very unfit person to be admitted a member of the Lodge, and as to giving them satisfaction that their fees should not be required a third time, I had to tell them it was not my intention to touch a shilling of their money, but having obtained the consent of the Hon. John H. Dunn, His Majesty's Receiver General for the Province, to act as Prov. Grand Treasurer, it was my intention to propose his election to that office, and they would thus have a sufficient security for all moneys paid to him. I requested them to understand that they were not to expect concessions as if I were negotiating with them, or had any point to gain by persuading them. On the contrary, they were to be the gainers, they were at present not within the pale of legitimate Masonry, and in consequence of their own repeated applications to the Grand Lodge, I was authorized to receive them into the fraternity on very liberal terms, which had been very fully explained in the circular letter, and ample instructions given respecting the steps to be taken by them to qualify themselves to be so received; and if they neglected or refused to follow those instructions, or if their influence should persuade others so to do, they themselves would be the only sufferers, because they would be excluded from communication with the Lodges forming the regular establishment. I laid before them the Book of Constitution, and my own instructions from Your Royal Highness, and told them that having made no reserve or concealment from the beginning, but having, with the frankness which I thought became my Masonic character, duly stated explicitly what was required of them, they were to consider what my ground was, and that I should abide by it. They said that their Lodges had not had time to prepare the necessary documents in consequence of the short notice, and that they had brought no money with them to pay their fees, to which I replied that money was no question with me, the Lodges would have to settle that point, when they had received their dispensations, with the Provincial Treasurer when he should be elected, and it was my duty to see that none should receive dispensations, except such as took the proper way of applying for them.

" This was the result of the conference, and I understood afterwards that there was a general meeting of the Brethren held in the evening, the particulars of which did not transpire, nor did I make any enquiries about them.

" The following day was Sunday, and having given dispensations to all the Lodges whose officers had applied with the proper documents, I appointed them to assemble in Prov. G. Lodge on Monday, the 23rd, at noon. The Lodge No. 16, at York, had a very good Lodge room, which was prepared for the occasion, and as soon as the keys were in our possession, I delivered to the Secretaries the formal instructions inserted in the appendix No. 17, directing whom to admit and whom to exclude; and whether in consequence of this decided step, or of a previous re-consideration, I know not, but I was speedily favored with another

" visit from the delegates, who came now to express their regret at having been misinformed on some points, and to offer their own influence in order to satisfy their own and other Lodges of which they had spoken, and to request permission to attend the Prov. G. Lodge. I told them I was glad to find this change in their sentiments, but I did not see how they could be admitted to the Prov. G. Lodge unless they had brought up the proper documents to enable me to grant dispensations to their Lodges. As individuals I could not admit them, nor I could not accept the promise or promised influence of any person, as an equivalent for the official proceedings of Lodges and the signatures of petitioners. On this a petition from one Lodge, regularly signed, and which it seems was kept back to try what I would concede without it, was produced, and I gave them a dispensation, but still two Brethren remained unqualified to be admitted, and as I refused to deviate from the plan I had laid down, or to receive them as members of the Grand Lodge, they asked permission to attend as visitors; to this I objected, and pointed out to them the difference betwixt the situation in which they had placed themselves, and that of actual visiting Brethren, or members of acknowledged Lodges. Their Lodges were for the present, in consequence of their own contumacy, to be considered not acknowledged by the Grand Lodge, and until they should set themselves right on this point, none of their members could be admitted to any Masonic communication. Upon this, one of the gentlemen (he who had been the principal spokesman,) said, that according to my explanation, he had a right to be present as a visitor, in consequence of being a Past Master of a lodge in the United States, and, admitting the principle, I asked him for documents to prove the fact, but he said he had left them at home; and then considering that the point I wished to establish was now fully admitted, and that it might be good policy to send these persons home satisfied with our proceedings, I told them that although they were not members of the Prov. Grand Lodge, and I could not permit them to assist in constituting it, yet that after the Lodge was opened, if they should apply for admission as visitors, I should not prevent them being so admitted, but should submit the question to the decision of the Lodge, and thus the matter was satisfactorily settled, as the vote for their admission was unanimous.

" I annex in Appendix No. 18, a copy of the proceedings of our Prov. G. Lodge, which, in substance at least, will, I trust, be satisfactory to Your R. Highness. In the choice of officers, I was led by the wish, as much as possible, to conciliate the feelings of the different parties, and to shew impartiality between the different districts of the Province.

" Thus the Prov. Grand Senior Warden is the son of Dr. Kerr, of whom I have already made mention, and who is himself a member of the Prov. Legislature. The Grand Junior Warden is a respectable lawyer residing in Kingston. The Grand Senior Deacon is the son of Bro. Adams, whom I superseded as nominal Provincial Grand Master, at Niagara; and the Grand Junior Deacon is a young lawyer from Kingston; of the Deputy Prov. Grand Master, the Treasurer, and the