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CANADIAN MASONIC PIONEER

“Memor et Fidelis.”

VOL. I.] MONTREAL, DECEMBER 1, 1856. [No. 67

GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

[From the London Freemason's Magazine.]

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION, *September 3, 1856.*—THE usual quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge of England was held in the Temple on Wednesday, September 3, at eight o'clock. Bro. Lewis, Prov. G.M. for Sumatra, being the oldest Prov. G.M. present, officiated as R. W. G. M., in the absence of the Right Hon. Bro. the Earl of Zetland, supported by the Hon. Bro. G. C. Anderson, Prov. G. M. for the Bahamas, as D. G. M.; Bro. B. B. Cabbell, Prov. G.M. for Norfolk, as S. W.; Bro. Tooke, J. W.; the Hon. Bro. Dutton, M. P., Prov. G. M. for Gloucestershire; Bro. Bagshaw, Prov. G.M. for Essex; Bro. Col. Burlington, P. Prov. G. M. for Bengal; Bro. the Rev. S. J. W. Hayes, P. G. Chap.; the Rev. Edward Moore and J. E. Cox, G. Chaps.; Bro. W. H. White, G. Sec.; Bro. H. L. Crohn, G. Sec. German Correspondence; Bro. Walmisly, G. S. B.; R. W. Jennings, G.D.C.; T. Chapman, Assist. G.D.C.; Bros. Hervey, Parkinson, F. Paterson, White, Potter, P.G.Ds.; Bros Le Veau, Patten, Biggs, P.G.S.Bs., &c. &c.

THE MINUTES.

The Grand Secretary read the minutes, with which was incorporated a revised report of the speech of the M.W. Grand Master, which extended to a considerable length. On the question of the confirmation of the minutes being put, Bro. H. G. Warren, P.M., No. 202, said, that before this question was put, he wished to call the attention of the Brethren to the fact that the G. Sec. had incorporated in the minutes a long speech of the M.W.G.M. on the last occasion. That speech was no part of the minutes, and they ought not to be asked to confirm it along with the minutes, more especially as it contained matter with which many of them disagreed, whereas all the other speeches, taking different views, were passed over. He had had some experience in the meetings of public companies and other associations, and he could only say that it was out of all order and precedent to insert such a speech in anything to be called minutes. Minutes ought only to record the resolutions come to by Grand Lodge. (Hear, hear.) It was very wrong to put them in the position of either confirming the G. M.'s speech along with the minutes, or of rejecting the minutes altogether—[hear, hear]; and he should therefore move, as an amendment, that the minutes be confirmed only so far as they related to the resolutions come to by Grand Lodge. [Loud applause.]

ever, been witnessed within the solemn and ceremonial precincts of the Supreme Grand Lodge of England. Bro. Warren was uproariously applauded; but the R. W. Grand Master, interrupting him in his observations, said he would not put the motion. It was irregular and disrespectful to the M. W. Grand Master.

Bro. Warren maintained he was perfectly in order; no speech could form a portion of the minutes. He had no intention of behaving disrespectfully towards the Grand Master, to whom he felt Grand Lodge were much indebted for having had his speech printed, but it could not form part of the minutes.

The R. W. Grand Master: You must put your amendment in writing before I can hear you.

Bro. Warren proceeded to the Secretary's table to do so, and a scene of great confusion ensued, in the course of which Bro. Jennings and other Brethren appeared to be offering suggestions to the Grand Master.

The R. W. the Grand Master [angrily]: "I am ruling here, and I don't want advice from anybody!" [Oh! oh! and loud expressions of indignant disapprobation.]

The Rev. Bro. G. R. Portal moved that the Lodge do now adjourn. This led to a scene of indescribable excitement and confusion, in the midst of which there were loud cries of "Motion!" "Motion?" from all parts of the room.

The Grand Master declared he would not put such a motion; and said, "Those of you who wish it, will be permitted to retire, and we will carry on the business of the Lodge without you."

It will easily be conceived that such language as this, and the vehement tone in which it was uttered, was not greatly calculated to allay the excited feeling which had before been exhibited. There, were, in fact, loud and angry expressions of disapprobation in all parts of the room.

Order having been partially restored,

Bro. Warren proceeded with his observations. The record of minutes, as read, he repeated, was a very proper document for circulation amongst the Brethren to inform them as to what had been done and what were the opinions of the Grand Master. He concluded by moving, "That the minutes be confirmed only so far as they related to motions made and carried the speech of the Grand Master being no legitimate part thereof."

Bro. Binckes seconded the motion. The Grand Master then called upon the Grand Secretary to explain how it was the speech came to be in the minutes.

Bro. White said this was not the first time such an occurrence had taken place. He had not acted on his own mere feeling in the matter. The Grand Master had before him the shorthand-writer's report of his speech, and having revised it, he returned it to him (Bro. White) for the purpose of putting it in the minutes. (Loud cries of "Divide!" "Divide!")

Bro. Warren said he did not object to the speech as a mere matter of record, but he did object to being called upon to confirm it along with the minutes.

The S.G.W., Bro. Bond Cabbell, contended that they were not asked to confirm the speech of the Grand Master, which was a mere matter of record, as part of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge on the occasion referred to. Confirmation did not apply to it. The effect of Bro. Warren's motion would be, to expunge that speech from the minutes. No Brother ought to make a proposition of that kind. They were only asked to confirm what had been read as an accurate account of what had taken place in Grand Lodge; they were not asked to confirm the sentiments contained in the speech. (Loud cries of "Divide!" "Divide!")

Bro. Harris, of No. 1, said he had never addressed the Grand Lodge, and had not intended to do so on that occasion; but he must confess that rather than see the independent sentiments of the Brethren thus ridden roughshod over by ever so worthy a Brother in the chair representing the Grand Master of Masons, he would walk out of that room and denude himself once and for ever of his Masonic clothing and Masonic functions. [Applause.] He had never before lifted up his voice in that Grand Lodge, and he would not have done so then but for the conduct of the then representative of the G. M. who had interrupted and arbitrarily put down every Brother. [Hear, hear! and loud cries of "Oh!" and "Question!"] He would speak to the question; the question was, whether the Brethren would submit to that kind of thing? [Hear, hear! and loud applause.]

The Grand Master [warmly]: "We are on the question of the confirmation or non-confirmation of the minutes."

Bro. Harris: "Well, then, I will speak to that question."

The Grand Master [energetically using his gavel]: "Brother, I have called you to order once, and—"

Bro. Harris: "No you have not." [Hear! and loud laughter.]

The Grand Master [emphatically]: "I have; and I beg to inform you, that if I have to call you to order more than twice, I shall exercise my

Here, followed a scene such as has rarely, if

authority in requesting you to withdraw from the Lodge." [Hear, hear.]

Bro. Harris. "Well, you have only called me to order once, yet—" [Laughter.]

Bro. Harris attempted to proceed, but was literally "put down" by some of the Grand Stewards, amidst loud cries of "Hear him!" "No, no!" and great confusion.

Bro. Jennings expressed a hope that the Brethren would endeavour to govern their feelings, (loud cries of "Bravo, bravo!" "Divide, divide!")

Bro. Green, of No. 318, said, the object of the speech was to convey to the Grand Lodge and the Craft in general, the views of the Grand Master on the question to which it related, and he hoped, therefore, that Bro. Warren would withdraw his amendment. (Loud cries of "No, no!")

Bro. Jennings said, the amendment said nothing against the speech being recorded as an expression of the Grand Master's views; it only objected to confirming it as a part of the minutes. (Hear, hear! from Bro. Warren.)

Bro. Warren's amendment was then put, and carried by an overwhelming majority—ten to one; the result was announced by the Grand Master, who declared that the enthusiastic cheering with which it was received was "quite unMasonic."

Bro. Binckes moved the non-confirmation of another part of the minutes—that which related to the £500 proposed to be given to the Widows' Annuity Fund. He thought that it should have £1,000 as well as the other charities.

The Grand Master said that Brother Warren's resolution was, in fact a confirmation of the minutes, with the exception of the Grand Master's speech, and he could not, therefore, hear of any other amendment upon the subject.

The majority of the lodge appeared decidedly against this ruling of the chair.

The Grand Master: "Go on, then, Bro. Binckes." (Laughter.)

Bro. Binckes proceeded to explain his views, but a number of the Brethren urged him to be content with the £500 now, and to move for another £500 at a future opportunity. He ultimately withdrew his motion, and the minutes, as amended were then put and confirmed.

THE COLONIAL QUESTION.

The Rev. Bro. Portal asked when would be the proper time to present petitions relative to the Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada.

The Grand Master: The communication to be read from the M. W. Grand Master takes the precedence of every thing else.

The Grand Secretary then read a communication from the Grand Master, and said, that in laying it before the Grand Lodge, he had the Grand Master's commands to express his regret that he was compelled, by unavoidable circumstances, to be absent in the country. The paper was signed "Zetland, G.M.," and was as follows:—

"To the United Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

"Representations having been made to me, by memorial and otherwise, from Lodges and Brethren in some of the colonies, as to the great inconvenience experienced by them owing to the inevitable delay in obtaining Grand Lodge certificates, which occupies in some cases twelve months, while the payments required amount to a considerable sum; and further, some thinking that the interests of the Craft in such colonies would be greatly promoted if power were given to them to nominate, at stated periods, their own Prov. Grand Masters subject to the approval of the Grand Master:

"The Grand Master has taken these several matters into his consideration, and, after the most mature deliberation, is of opinion that some remedies ought to be applied to meet the alleged inconveniences. It is, however, proper here to observe, that the Grand Master feels the force of the allegation that these difficulties are experienced by all Lodges in the British colonies and settlements, as well as in foreign parts; and he is therefore desirous that some regulations should be made

to remove the difficulty, and to extend relief to all distant Lodges. The Grand Master therefore recommends, and submits to the consideration and decision of Grand Lodge the following plan and suggestions for alterations to be made in the laws of Supreme Grand Lodge, as will embrace and effect the objects he proposes:—That the registration-fee for every duly initiated Brother be 7s. 6d., which sum will entitle the Brother to a Grand Lodge certificate. The registration-fee for Brethren joining one Lodge from another, to remain 2s. 6d. as at present, unless that Brother require a Grand-Lodge certificate, in which case the fee will be 7s. 6d.

"That each Lodge should make a return to Grand Lodge annually, together with the amount of the dues payable thereon, unless there be a Prov. Grand Master for the district, in which case the returns and payments shall be made to him, or to such persons as he may direct, he being responsible for the remittance of the same to the Grand Lodge of London.

"That the Prov. Grand Master shall distribute the Grand Lodge certificates, which will be forwarded to him for the purpose in blank. They will be filled up in due form, and countersigned by the Prov. Grand Master and Prov. Grand Sec., or in the event of the absence or illness of the Prov. Grand Master, by the Dep. Prov. Grand Master in his stead.

"That the returns and payments shall be made to the Prov. Grand Master, or to some Brother duly appointed by him, on his behalf, and the Lodge so paying shall immediately transmit to the Grand Secretary in London, a duplicate of such returns, signed by the Worshipful Master, the Secretary, and the Treasurer of the Lodge, specifying when, and by whom, and to whom, the returns and payments were made, with the names of those to whom the Prov. Grand Master has issued Grand Lodge certificates.

"And further, that the Prov. Grand Master shall, with all reasonable expedition, forward to the Grand Secretary all returns received from the several Lodges within his province or district, together with the amount of the dues, so that the Brethren may be duly registered, and the amounts placed to the account of the different Lodges.

"That as, on account of the distance of many of the Prov. Grand Lodges from London, it is impossible that the Grand Lodge can be aware of their proceedings, the Grand Master requires that every third year an account shall be rendered to him, detailing their proceedings and transaction, with a view of determining whether the interests of the Craft would be best promoted by the continuance in office of the Prov. Grand Master, should he be willing to do so, and the decision of the Grand Master will be communicated to the Prov. Grand Master, the Dep. Prov. Grand Master, or the Prov. Grand Secretary, for the information of the Prov. Grand Lodge. No new fees will be required on these occasions.

"By these means the Grand Master hopes that the good understanding so necessary to be preserved between the Prov. Grand Master and the Lodges under his jurisdiction, will be promoted, and the unity of the Craft maintained.

"With the view of providing for the event of the Prov. Grand Master's death, the Grand Master will deliver to each Province such a document as will empower the Dep. Prov. Grand Master to preside and act for such a limited period as will permit a successor being appointed, or any other necessary steps being taken. The alterations which the Grand Master proposes in order to effect these objects, are the following:—

"After Art. 26, at page 65, to add, 'In order to avoid delay, and for the accommodation of Lodges in the colonies and foreign parts for which a Prov. Grand Master is appointed' those Lodges may make their returns and payments to the Prov. Grand Master or such Brother as he may direct, but for the due remittance of which to the Grand Lodge the Prov. Grand Master shall be personally responsible; which Prov. Grand Master is thereupon to deliver Grand Lodge certificates which will be furnished to him for the purpose, and which

certificates are to be countersigned as specified at page 85.'

"When a return and payment has so been made to a Prov. Grand Master, or other Brother on his behalf, the Lodge making the same shall forthwith transmit to the Grand Secretary, in London, a duplicate of the return, signed by the Worshipful Master and the Secretary or Treasurer, specifying the date when and the party to whom the return and payment have been made, and also specifying for whom the Prov. Grand Master has issued certificates; and, further, the Prov. Grand Master shall immediately, or with all reasonable expedition, forward to the Grand Secretary the returns received from the several Lodges in his district, together with the amount payable thereon, so that the Brethren may be duly registered and the money placed to the credit of the respective Lodges in the Grand Treasurer's accounts.

"In Article 5, page 85, after the words 'Grand Secretary,' in the second line, to add the following:—'except in the British colonies and settlements, or foreign districts, for which a Prov. Grand Master is appointed, and to whom Grand Lodge certificates may be forwarded as hereafter mentioned.'

"And after the said Article 5 to add the following:—'The Grand Secretary be authorized to furnish to Prov. Grand Masters for colonies or foreign districts Grand Lodge certificates, signed and sealed, but in other respects to be left blank; the blanks being to be filled up by the Prov. Grand Master, or by his order, with the names and dates of the Brethren initiated, &c., by Lodges within his province or district, or of Brethren who shall join such Lodges as set forth in returns made to him; which Grand Lodge certificates shall be countersigned by the Prov. Grand Master, or his deputy, and by the Prov. Grand Secretary.

"To omit the word 'foreign' in the third line of the law register-fees, at page 107, and to add, after that law, the following:—'The registration fee for a Mason made in a colonial or foreign Lodge, 7s. 6d. sterling, which payment shall include the Grand Lodge certificate; the fee for a Brother joining any such Lodge, 2s. 6d., but if he require a Grand Lodge certificate; then the full fee of 7s. 6d. is to be paid.'

The Grand Secretary then said: Before any proposition is made on this subject, I may be permitted to comply with the Grand Master's wish, and just explain his views on some points. Some of the Prov. Grand Lodges wish to elect their own Prov. Grand Masters; Lord Zetland has already stated his views upon that subject, and informed us that he could not give his consent to such an alteration of the laws; but so far as he understands the complaints, many of them are founded on the difficulty they have in Prov. Grand Lodges of exercising any control; if the Prov. Grand Master choose to be dominant, the Prov. Grand Lodge has little opportunity, if any, of getting what they consider right done to them. The Grand Master therefore states that he will require from all distant Prov. Grand Lodges, at least once every three years, or oftener if desired, a detailed account of their proceedings, and that he will also require from the Prov. Grand Master a detailed account of what he has done during the period. The object of the Grand Master is, that if the Prov. Grand Lodge have any grievances between themselves and the Prov. Grand Master, it should be competent for them to enter into the subject and to record upon their minutes anything which they consider ought to be communicated to the Grand Master, in order that he may exercise the power he possesses of removing a Prov. Grand Master, if it appears that it would be for the benefit of the Craft for him to do so. But inasmuch as the Prov. Grand Master is supposed to be present at the Prov. Grand Lodge, either personally or by deputy, he would be informed of all their proceedings; and the Grand Master required from him also a detailed account of all that he shall have done during the preceding period, so that he will thus have an opportunity of answering any observation made in the resolutions passed by the Prov. Grand Lodge; and the Grand Master thinks that that will be such a check, and will give such

an absolute controlling power to the Prov. Grand Lodge, as to enable them to state their charges against the Prov. Grand Master, so that they might come under his consideration, and he remove the Prov. Grand Master if desirable. Within six months of the receipt of these reports, he will communicate his decision to the Prov. Grand Secretary, and take such steps as appear to be necessary, both with respect to the Prov. Grand Master and the Prov. Grand Lodge. There are doubtless some who wish for the power of electing their own Prov. Grand Master, yet there are many who desire not to have that power taken from the Grand Master; and it would create great dissension and ill feeling in various parts of the globe to make the Prov. Grand Masters elective.

Bro. Col. Burlington, Past Prov. Grand Master of Bombay, here interrupted the Grand Secretary, and asked if there was any motion before the chair. [Hear, hear.]

Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon said, the communication which had been read from the M. W. the Grand Master consisted of two parts; the one referred to money matters, and the other to the Prov. Grand Masters. He wished to call the attention of Grand Lodge to one of these questions, and to raise a discussion upon it.

The Grand Master: Any communication of this kind from the Grand Master is placed before Grand Lodge as a matter of course, and the alterations therein proposed to be made will now be put as substantive motions.

Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal said that what the Earl of Carnarvon wanted to know was whether Grand Lodge would have an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon that portion of the Grand Master's communication which was not referred to in the resolutions about to be submitted.

The Grand Master: I am only here to control the order of your proceedings. The Grand Master has stated his views; as a matter of course, they will be recorded as a portion of our proceedings. On that subject we can have no discussion. I have had the honour now of belonging to this Grand Lodge thirty-five years, and till the last three years I have regularly attended. This has always been our rule. There has never been a discussion on the communication of the Grand Master.

Bro. White, the Grand Secretary then proposed a series of resolutions, the object of which was to give effect to the propositions by the M. W. the Grand Master, as set forth in the statement read.

Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon said: I have listened with deep attention to the specific motion which has been formulated out of the communication of the M. W. Grand Master. I shall be happy to vote for it, provided always that we have subsequently a vote taken upon the other part of it, which relates to the Prov. Grand Masters. [Hear, hear.] I concur in what I will call the money clauses—all those which relate to alterations to be made in the Book of Constitutions; but I shall feel it my duty to lay before the Grand Lodge my serious objections to that part of the propositions which relates to the Prov. Grand Masters. I ask therefore if we shall take a second motion on the communication as a whole, as to whether or not it shall be entered on the minutes!

The Grand Master: Any communication from the Grand Master must be recorded upon your minutes. That has always been the course hitherto pursued.

The Rev. Bro. Portal called the attention of the chair to the fact that the Grand Master "recommended and submitted" his statement "to the consideration and decision of Grand Lodge." These were the Grand Master's own words. [Hear, hear, and applause.] Yet they were told by the representative of the Grand Master on the present occasion, that they were not to be allowed to consider and decide. [Hear, hear.]

The Grand Master: We are not discussing what shall be done with respect to the Prov. Grand Master's question; that subject is not before us in the substantive motion which has been put.

The Earl of Carnarvon: I am compelled then to see the discussion in a manner in which I

did not desire to do it, sooner than permit the subject to pass away unnoticed and without discussion.

Col. Burlington here rose amidst loud cries of "Carnarvon! Carnarvon!" and said that a higher authority than the Grand Master, viz. the Grand Lodge itself, had appointed a committee for the express purpose of inquiring into the expediency of forming a body to whom all letters and correspondence relative to colonial matters should be submitted for consideration. That committee assembled several times, and had made its report, which should have been communicated to Grand Lodge in June last. Great discontent prevailed on the subject, and he thought that report ought certainly to be read before any resolution on the question was agreed to by Grand Lodge. [Hear, hear.] He wished the Brethren to recollect that the Colonial Lodges were not so much dissatisfied with the 7s. 6d., or even with the returns they were called upon to make; what they were justly indignant about was, that they received no replies whatever to their complaints and communications. [Hear, hear.] Petitions remained unnoticed for years and years. [Hear, hear! and cries of "Shame!"] Some had gone unnoticed for ten years to his knowledge. ["Shame! shame!"] It was to remedy this state of things that the committee was appointed, and as they had gone carefully into the matter, it was right that their opinions should be heard. [Applause.] He concluded by an amendment to that effect.

Bro. Bagshaw, Prov. Grand Master for Essex, seconded the motion. He was quite satisfied that the success of the Craft in the colonies depended upon the confirmation of the recommendation of that communication, and he therefore seconded the amendment most cordially.

Bro. Jennings said, that what the M. W. the Grand Master communicated to them became matter of record. With his prerogative they could not interfere. That which was submitted as an alteration in the law was alone a fit subject for their discussion. All that the Grand Master promulgated as law they had a right to discuss, but that which he communicated as a simple statement of his views they had no right to discuss.

Bro. the Hon. George C. Anderson, Prov. Grand Master for the Bahamas, said he felt, for his part, that a debt of gratitude was due to the Grand Master for the attention he had paid to the colonial matters, and he regretted therefore that such an amendment should have been made. He had no doubt that the report would show that their interests had been attended to. ["Oh, oh" and laughter.] At any rate he thought that such a report should not take the precedence of the Grand Master. The proposition to give the Prov. Grand Master power of signing the certificates would be a great boon, as it sometimes took twelve months to get them from Grand Lodge, and in the mean while the Brethren initiated had left the colony, and often had gone no one knew whither.

Bro. Bagshaw, Prov. Grand Master for Essex, said the committee referred to was composed largely of Brethren who had had considerable colonial experience in Canada and the West Indies; and while he had the highest respect for the M. W. the Grand Master, he felt that the committee so constituted and so appointed ought to be heard before even a resolution from the M. W. the Grand Master. That committee had the confidence of Grand Lodge, and it had made suggestions of an important character, and no alteration in the laws of Freemasonry on the colonial question ought to be made without their opinion being first heard. [Hear, hear.]

Bro. Colonel Burlington said, it was not the 7s. 6d., or the certificates, but the silent contempt with which colonial Brethren were treated which had led to the dissatisfaction. Ten years ago, in Bengal, when he was Prov. Grand Master there he suspended a Brother from his Masonic rights and privileges. The Brother appealed against his decision, and he sent that appeal home ten years ago, and it had never been answered yet. (Loud cries of "Shame! shame!" and other marks of disapprobation.)

The feelings of the Brethren were very much excited, at the statements with respect to the inattention in these Grand Secretary's office, and when the amendment was put, after some further discussion, it was carried, amidst loud cheers, by an overwhelming majority.

The Rev. Bro. Portal asked, if it were lawful for him to move that the report of the colonial committee be now read?

The Grand Master: Certainly not, Brother.

REPORT OF THE COLONIAL COMMITTEE.

The report of the special committee appointed at the Quarterly Communication in March, "to inquire into the expediency of forming a board to whom all matters and correspondence relative to Lodges in the colonies be referred for adjudication and decision."

The committee report their opinion as follows:—

First.—That it is expedient that a board be formed, to be called "The Colonial Board, to consist of ten members of Grand Lodge, five of whom shall be a quorum.

Secondly.—That the said board shall, after the first instance, be nominated and elected at the same time and in the same manner as the Board of General Purposes, with exceptions hereinafter specified.

Thirdly.—That when practicable, three of the above board shall be Past Masters of Colonial Lodges, members of Grand Lodge.

Fourthly.—That the said board shall have similar powers, as regards the colonies, to those at present exercised by the Board of General Purposes.

Fifthly.—That the constitution of this board shall be as follows:—seven members shall be elected by Grand Lodge, the three colonial members shall be nominated by the Grand Master, who shall also appoint the chairman and vice-chairman from the board so constituted.

Sixthly.—That the board so constituted shall meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 3 p.m.

Seventhly.—That it shall be the special duty of the Grand Secretary to submit to the board all communications whatever received from the colonies at its first meeting after their receipt.

Eighthly.—It appearing to this committee important that no unnecessary delay should occur in carrying out the above suggestions herein made, it is recommended that the members of this committee perform the functions of the proposed board until the permanent board is appointed in June, 1857.

(Signed) W. BURLTON, Chairman,
May 14th, 1856. P. Prov. G.M. for Bengal.

Bro. H. G. Warren then said, at this late hour of the evening we cannot properly discuss a motion of this kind. [Hear, hear.] We cannot go on after eleven o'clock. I therefore propose that Grand Lodge do now adjourn till this day month. [Hear, hear, and loud cheers.] If allowed to adjourn in the usual way, all your motions are thrown over again for three months. [Hear, hear.] This colonial question of itself will take one whole evening at least.

The Grand Master: You had better go on with this motion till eleven o'clock. [No, no.]

Bro. Warren said, if they did so, the Grand Master would rule that the motion could not be put [hear, hear], and he for one was not in a position to go on with the discussion until he had seen the report either in print or in writing [hear, hear, and as he could not bring on his motion after eleven o'clock, he moved that the Grand Lodge do adjourn till that day month. [Cheers.]

Bro. Portal expressed a hope that the report would be printed and circulated.

The question of adjournment was then put and carried almost unanimously.

The Grand Lodge was then closed in solemn form, and stands adjourned till this day [Oct. 1] at the hour of eight

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal, has given notice of the following motion for December:—"That the Board of General Purposes be requested to procure a return of the number of Provincial Grand Lodges held in each province during the last ten years, specifying those at which the Prov. Grand Master has presided in person, and to report the same to Grand Lodge."

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The Canadian Masonic Pioneer.

MONTREAL, DEC. 1, 1856.

Besides publishing a Supplement we are this month compelled to put off the publication of several interesting articles and communications in order to give, in full, a report of the last regular communication of the Grand Lodge of England, and also, the report of a special committee of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia appointed a *second time* to consider the legality of the proceedings which attended the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

The simultaneous publication of these two reports gives rise, in our mind, to very conflicting feelings. One of them we would gladly withhold; but, interested as Canadian Masons are, in all that takes place, in the Grand Lodge of England, we fear that to do so, would be unjust to our subscribers. We therefore give, as it appears in the *Freemason's Magazine*, a report of what took place at the last meeting of that body, and we much mistake the spirit of our brethren in this province if its perusal does not give rise to feelings of sorrow and disappointment.—Sorrow, to see a body, which hitherto, they could and did respect, conducting their business in a manner more befitting a Covent garden cider cellar than a temple: and disappointment, that, while evidently admitting the existence of many of the evils complained of by Canadian, and, as it appears, other Colonist Masons, Lord Zetland should confine his proposed ameliorations to mere petty half-measures which, however good in themselves so far as they go, come altogether short of the requirements of the craft, and which we firmly believe, will, if adopted, only make the "confusion" which already exists "worse confound-

ed"—simply because that instead of simplifying the machinery by which the G. L. of England manages colonial affairs they go to make it more complicated.

Of the report to the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, we feel that nothing need be said. Its rise, progress, and consummation, as well as the circumstances which attended its every step are best explained by itself. Its results to the Gr. Lodge of Canada must be important, but it will take time to develop them. Meantime, we hope that it may come under the eye of every Mason in Canada, no matter from what Grand Lodge he hails, and to this end, trust that our city cotemporary, which took the initiative in publishing a very excellent synopsis of the report to, and action of, the Massachusetts Grand Lodge on Canadian matters, will, in fairness to its own readers (if for no higher motive) devote like space to a condensation of the one we now publish, which emanates from brethren second to few, if any, upon this continent, in their knowledge of Masonic law and usages, and which has been adopted by a Grand Lodge, remarkable alike for the inflexibility of its rule within its own jurisdiction and the jealousy with which it has eyed all past aspirants to Masonic equality with itself.

REPORT OF THE GRAND LODGE OF COLUMBIA.

In the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, in annual communication, Nov. 4th, 1856.

Bro. Past Grand Master B. B. French, from the Committee to whom was re-committed, in June last, all the papers relative to the formation of the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada, for re-examination, made the following report, which was read, accepted, and the resolution accompanying the same, was agreed to by the Grand Lodge.

To the *Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.*

The undersigned, a Committee appointed to consider the matter of the recognition by this Grand Lodge, of "The Grand Lodge of ancient, free and accepted masons of Canada," make the following report:

That,—at the semi-annual meeting of this Grand Lodge, in May last, the Most Worshipful Grand Master laid before this Grand Body, a circular from the Grand Lodge of Canada, stating, very fully, the reasons for the formation of that Grand Lodge, and closing in the following words—

.. Engaged in one common cause—the good of our fellow-men, by promoting the interest of our time-honored Institution—and it being our sincere desire to establish and perpetuate an intimate alliance with your Grand Lodge, we extend to you, in the name of our Divine Art, the right hand of brotherhood, and confidently claim from you a reciprocation of our fraternal regard."

That circular was referred to the undersigned as a Committee to consider and report upon the same *forthwith*. The Committee retired at once, and having examined the circular, had no hesitation in coming to a unanimous conclusion that it was the duty of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, to recognize the Grand Lodge of Canada, and enter at once into fraternal correspondence with it.

They accordingly reported resolutions carrying out their views, and after the reading of the circular, and such necessary explanations as the subject seemed to demand, those resolutions were *unanimously* adopted by this Grand Lodge, and our Grand Secretary was instructed to transmit a certified copy of them under the seal of the Grand Lodge, to the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of the Provinces of Canada.

This, your Committee, are officially informed, the Grand Secretary did, accompanying the same by a letter, dated May 8th, 1856, expressing, in a very appropriate manner, the action of this Grand Lodge.

Thus, as your Committee supposed, the most fraternal relations were established between this Grand Lodge, and the Grand Lodge of Canada.

On the 13th of June following, the Chairman of your Committee received a letter from our Most Worshipful Grand Master, accompanied by a printed circular from the Secretary of the "Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West," which, that this Grand Lodge may understand the entire matter, your Committee embody in this report.

Here follows the Circular of the P. G. L. of Canada West, with which our readers, are, no doubt, acquainted, and which we are compelled to omit for want of space.—Ed. C. M. P.

Grand Master's Office,
Gr. Lodge of the Dist. of Columbia,
June 13th, A. L., 5856.

M. Wor. Sir and Brother.

Enclosed I send you a printed communication dated the 28th ult, from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, under the authority of the M. W. Grand Lodge of England, recently received by me, having reference to the formation of a new and Independent Grand Lodge in Canada, and which latter Grand Lodge we recognized at our last G. L. Communication.

I had doubts, from the commencement, of the propriety of our recognition of the doings of the latter, not only upon the mere abstract ground of insubordination on their part to their legitimate head, but also because of the stand we had taken in reference to a like question in the State of New York, but I was overruled in my opinion by those of others whom I consulted, and induced to present the matter to the Grand Lodge without any suggestive objections on my part.

I have great cause, I think, to regret the course I then took, for I cannot but feel now that our Gr. Lodge has, under the existing facts, ignored its action on the New York case, violated the comity due the Gr. Lodge of England, and thus committed two faults from the effects of which it should endeavour to escape; and that I did not adhere to my first views and express them, is to me a source of great mortification.

I see it stated in the "Mirror and Keystone," that in Canada West, there are 51 English and 14 Irish Lodges—that 14 English and 14 Irish Lodges were represented in the Convention which ultimately resulted in the formation of the new Grand Lodge in Canada, and that, since the latter event 4 English Lodges and 1 Irish have re-asserted their allegiance. That, in Montreal, returned to Henry "there were 12 English and Wm. 1 Scotch Lodge—10 English, 1 Irish, and 1 Scotch in Convention, and 1 Irish represented in the Convention party and returned to their allegiance. That, in "Quebec and Three Rivers" there were 3 English Lodges, 1 Irish, and 1 Scotch, the Irish and Scotch Lodges being the only ones represented in the Convention, and that they have returned to their allegiance.

It would thus appear, that, instead of being a movement of unanimity among the masons of Canada, one in which the private Lodges, with scarcely an exception participated, and to which the three Provincial Grand Lodges offered no obstacle, it was the movement of the brethren of but 41 Lodges out of 84, and that of the 41 nine have since refused to acknowledge the new Gr. Lodge, thus showing, that, if the persons professing to represent them, acted in that respect by authority, they went too far when they attempted to bind them to this forcible separation. I was deceived, and I think the brethren acting upon the matter, were equally mistaken, in the language and terms of the manifesto issued by the New Grand Lodge, and asking a recognition of their authority. I believed that the 41 Lodges referred to by them, comprised all the Lodges within the jurisdiction of the three Pro. Gr. Lodges, or so near all as to make it equivalent to a unanimous desire on their part for the change, and that, although perfect unanimity would, of itself, have been no just ground for the recognition of rebellion and disobedience to lawful authority, yet that it would have sanctioned a separation made for purposes of harmony, without feelings of hostility to the parent body, and with such obvious and palpable evils, growing out of the previous relations. It had been also stated, in a semi-official form, that the Gr. Lodge of Ireland had assented to the Lodges under her jurisdiction assuming the independent character referred to, and it was not supposed that the Gr. Lodge of England would interpose an objection to a like course, on the part of the Lodges under her jurisdiction, when they unanimously presented themselves in that attitude. It would, however, now appear that it is a mere schism among the brethren, like the State of New York, differing from the latter however in having been peacefully made, but from causes of mere inconvenience in the working of the details, while the latter alleged deprivation of rights secured by compact.

As you were Chairman of the Committee to whom the subject referred at our last communication, I have referred the enclosed paper to you, and now request, that you will see the other two members of that Committee, Bros. Heath and Page, and jointly give the matter as it now stands, your serious consideration, and

prepare such report thereon in writing, as will enable you to present it to the Grand Lodge at its next special communication on the 24th inst. I intend to make the call for that assembly of the craft subservient, as well to the purposes of our proposed celebration, as to the consideration of this subject, and intend officially referring the latter matter at that time, to the old Committee. That you should have the advantage of the time between this date and the 24th inst., to give it some consideration.

I would respectfully direct your attention to the last No. of Bro. Moore's Masonic Magazine for a long editorial; expressive of his views, and to the last No. of the Mirror and Keystone for an extract from the address of Gr. Master Evans of New York, on the same subject.

With considerations of fraternal regard.

(Signed) CHAS. S. FRAILEY.
Gr. Master.

To B. B. FRENCH, Esq.,
M. W. Past Gr. Master.

This letter, the circular accompanying the same, and an article in the June number of Bro. Moore's Freemason's Magazine, induced the Chairman of your Committee to believe that the Committee had acted without that deep consideration that a subject of such importance demanded, and in a letter to Bro. Moore, dated June 30th, and published in the Magazine, he (the chairman of your Committee) amongst other things, used the following language:—"I do not hesitate to say that, had I known what I now know, I should not have reported as I did, without very much more consideration."

Your Chairman, it will be seen, expressed no opinion contrary to the one expressed in the resolutions reported by him, but he thought that a more careful and full examination of the matter was due to its grave and important character.

At a meeting of the Grand Lodge, on the 24th of June, the Grand Master brought the subject again before it, and it was again referred to your Committee, "that" to use the language of the Grand Secretary, "they might fully re-examine the subject."

Your Committee have taken great pains to procure all the information they could relative to the subject, and have entered upon the duty of re-examining it with the full purpose of doing masonic justice to all the parties concerned; and after reading every paper before them, and weighing the whole matter as carefully as it was in their power to do, they can now only reiterate the conclusion to which they came in May last.

They will now proceed to give the reasons that have led them to the conclusion above expressed, and as the subject is of so much importance the Grand Lodge must pardon them if they occupy considerable time in so doing.

Upon a careful re-perusal of the circular of the "Grand Lodge of Canada," your Committee have not been able to find what the circular of the Grand Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge denominates "statements which are not borne out by facts." Nor do they find anything in the former circular, which would lead them to suppose that the action of the 41 Lodges assembled at Hamilton on the 10th day of October, 1855, was the unanimous action of the craft in Canada.

That circular commences by stating the

plain fact that "the Freemason's of Canada, to the number of 41 Lodges, having united in the establishment of a Grand Lodge of Canada," &c., your Committee do not find that any one denies this statement.

The circular proceeds, by giving the reasons why this assemblage of 41 Lodges, thought themselves justified in forming an independent Grand Lodge in Canada, and, so far from attempting to controvert those reasons, the Provincial Grand Secretary, in his circular, admits the force of them, by saying, "nearly the entire craft agree in the belief that an independent organization is essential to the proper and effectual working of the craft in this Province."

The reasons thus given we will briefly state.

1. The absence of that progress in the masonic art which has invariably attended the existence of duly constituted Lodges in other countries.

2. Want of harmony consequent upon the establishment of Lodges hailing from Grand Lodges of different countries.

3. The injustice of the requirement of the Grand Lodges of Great Britain, that the Canadian Lodges should contribute to their funds, in addition to having to support three Provincial Grand Lodges, and to aid and assist brethren emigrating from the Mother Country—thus doubly taxing the Canadian Fraternity.

4. The inconvenience, fully and clearly set forth at length, of the distance between the Provincial Lodges and the controlling power.

5. The appointment of the Provincial Grand Master by the Provincial Grand Master of England, and the nomination by him of all the other Provincial Grand Officers to the Grand Master of England for his confirmation,* thus depriving the Canadian Lodges of any voice of control in the selections of their Grand Officers.

The circular of the Independent Grand Lodge then goes on to state, what your Committee believe to be fully sustained by other evidence before them, that "The foregoing sentiments were participated in by the whole of the Masonic Fraternity, with scarcely an individual exception."

Following this a clear and concise statement is made of the several steps taken by the "Provincial Grand Lodge," from 1852 onward, to induce "The Grand Lodge of England," to authorize the establishing of an Independent Grand Lodge in Canada—to induce that Grand Lodge to suffer the Provincial Grand Lodge to retain all fees arising from the working of the craft, and to permit them, at least the poor boon of electing their own Provincial Grand Master.

To these reasonable requests the Grand Lodge of England made no reply, and further efforts were made, first through the Grand Secretary, and then through the Grand Registrar, "respectfully calling attention to the petitions, and begging that they might be favored with consideration and some reply."

"These applications," say they, "appear to have been alike unavailing in procuring from the Grand Lodge of England any consideration of the claims of the masons of Canada, for, at a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, on the 14th of July last, [1855] it was officially announced that no reply had been received from the Grand Lodge of England to any of these communications.

*The P. G. M. does not nominate but appoints.—E. D. PRONER.

"Finding," says the circular, "that the interests of the craft in the Province were suffering with increased severity from the cause of which they had complained; feeling deeply the uncourteous neglect and correspondence of the Provincial Grand Lodge experienced from the officers of the Grand Lodge of England, and believing the Provincial Grand Lodge to be incapable of obtaining the concessions which the position of the craft rendered indispensable, it was determined to call a meeting of delegates from all Canadian Lodges, to be held in the City of Hamilton, on the 10th of October, to consider the expediency of establishing a Grand Lodge of Canada."

In consequence of this determination every Lodge in Canada was notified of the intended meeting at Hamilton, to be held on the 10th day of October, 1855.

The circular then proceeds to give a full account of that meeting, and its result was the formation of "The Grand Lodge of Canada," which was duly consecrated, and its officers installed by a Past Grand Master of the State of Michigan.

"From the time," says the circular, "when the four Lodges of London renounced their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of York, and formed themselves into an independent Grand Lodge, up to the present period (Nov. 10, 1855,) the greatest number of Lodges on record, ever associated to erect a new Grand Lodge was seventeen, whilst forty-one Lodges, and holding warrants, too, from three different jurisdictions, were harmoniously united in the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Canada."

Your Committee having inserted the circular of the Secretary of "Provincial Grand Lodge" entire in their report, could do no less than give the foregoing brief synopsis of the circular of the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada.

They have carefully compared the two papers, and are reluctantly compelled to say, that they have not been able to see in the argument of the Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge, any sufficient reason given to shake, in the least, the conclusion they arrived at in May last, and then reported to this Grand Lodge.

The first point attempted to be made in the latter argument is, that the "self-styled Grand Lodge of Canada" state, that at the Convention "the action taken was unanimous with one exception, whereas of the 41 Lodges there represented 15 were from the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, 10 from Canada East, &c.," going on to state fully the organization of that meeting, and showing that a large number of Lodges were not there represented, and drawing the inference that the "self-styled Grand Lodge" intended to misrepresent to the Masonic world, by claiming that all the Canadian Lodges but one were represented at that meeting.

There certainly is nothing in the circular of the Grand Lodge of Canada about "that meeting being unanimous, with one exception," and if there be any statement of that kind elsewhere, your Committee would regard it as meaning that the action at Hamilton was unanimous, with one exception, so far as the Lodges or representatives there present were concerned.

They say forty-one Lodges were represented, and is it to be supposed that sensible men

would be so foolish as to suppose they could impose on others so gross a misrepresentation as that there were but forty-two Lodges in Canada, when the whole Masonic fraternity of Canada knew to the contrary! If that of course cannot mean what your Committee suppose, it amounts to nothing; and we have in vain striven, to the credit of the writer, to find in it some other meaning.

Your Committee cannot see the force of the statement that, on the meeting to which the delegates who attended their Lodges, they were not sustained in the course they had taken. Nothing is more common in the political world, than for a constituency to repudiate the action of their representative, but your Committee do not remember of ever hearing, even a pretence set up, that a law passed by the aid of that representative's vote, was any the less a law, because those who delegated to him the authority to aid in making it did not happen to approve it!

The circular of the Secretary states that the alleged cause which immediately led to the formation of the new body, was the refusal of the R. W. D. Grand Master at a special meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge, held at the Clinton House, Niagara Falls, on the 19th July last, to submit a motion from the chair, &c."

This may be the fact, but neither the circular of the Grand Lodge, nor any other paper that has come into the possession of your Committee, except this circular of the Secretary affirms any such cause.

To the minds of your Committee the circular of the Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge carries no conviction adverse to the recognition of the new Grand Lodge, but rather strengthens them in the belief, that it is the duty of the Masonic Fraternity of the United States to recognise it.

Your Committee in answer to intimations they have seen cannot omit to say that, in their view, there is not the least resemblance between the peaceable and proper formation of "The Grand Lodge of Canada," and the violent and improper formation of the spurious body presided over by a Mr. Phillips, and calling itself "The Grand Lodge of New York."

In the State of New York there was one legitimate Grand Lodge, which had been for years in existence, and which was recognized every where as the only Grand Lodge of that State. And it has come to be a Masonic principle in the United States, that but one regular Grand Lodge can exist in the same State or Territory in this Union.

We have already endeavoured to show the entire dissimilarity of the situation of the Fraternity in Canada, to the state of things which existed in New York, at the time of the disgraceful and violent proceedings which resulted in the formation of the illegitimate "Phillips, Grand Lodge" of that State.

Your Committee cannot close their report on this very important subject without giving some general views relative to it. One fact seems to them, were there no other, entirely to justify the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and that is, the disjointed and disorganized condition of the craft in Canada, as represented by Bro. F. C. Tisdale, representative, we believe in the Grand Lodge of New York, of the Grand Lodges of Canada West, Quebec, &c., in a communication addressed

to the Philadelphia *Mirror and Keystone*, in June last,

"On the 9th day of October last," says Bro. Tisdale, "there were eighty-four Lodges in the Canadas, viz:—51 Lodges English register, under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West; and 14 Lodges, Irish register, responsible only to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, in the same Province; 12 Lodges, register of England, under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Montreal and William Henry; 1 Lodge register of Scotland, and one Lodge register of Ireland in the same district; and 3 Lodges register of England, under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Quebec, &c.; 1 Lodge register of Scotland, and 1 Lodge register of Ireland in the same district."

With the Craft thus divided—to use the words of the Canadian Grand Lodge circular—"healing as they did," they were over a Province extending in length 1,500 miles, and breadth averaging over 220 miles, being three times as large as Great Britain and Ireland; the means of communication too being very imperfect—is it to be wondered at that there was an almost unanimous desire amongst the freemasons in Canada, to have an independent Grand Jurisdiction of their own?

After becoming wearied and impatient at the silence in which their English mother persisted toward all their petitions and prayers for an amelioration, in some shape, of their masonic condition, a resolution was passed by the Provincial Grand Lodge, in July, 1855, appointing a special agent, who was requested to use his best endeavours to obtain an answer to the Petition of the Provincial Grand Lodge: the next thing, as it seems to your Committee, to getting down on their knees and imploring the Grand Lodge of England to listen to their humble requests!

In September of that year, the craft in Canada were notified that the Special Agent thus appointed, had brought the subject of their grievances before the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge of England, and that matters were in a fair way towards a satisfactory result, and they were begged "to wait patiently a short time longer."

A large portion of the craft, under the impression, probably, that they had waited patiently long enough, on the 10th day of October, 1855, met at Hamilton, as has heretofore been stated, and formed "the Grand Lodge of Canada."

The formation of this Grand Lodge of Canada, has, in various papers which your Committee has seen, been denominated, illegal, schismatic, rebellious, and has been anathematized in various quarters, as if freemasons had no right to be free men, and act for themselves!

While your Committee stands as firmly on the ground of masonic constitutionalism assumed by those who have thus characterised this new Grand Lodge, as they possibly can, we have not been able to see the action of our Canadian brethren in the same light that they do.

We see a large body of freemasons, hailing from various jurisdictions, with no common head, who have for years, been striving, for the sake of peace, with a Grand Lodge 4000 miles away, claiming jurisdiction over a portion of them, to obtain leave for it to form an independent Grand Lodge, but who regarded not their request, assembling peaceably toge-

ther, and forming a Grand Lodge, in the same manner precisely as all the Grand Lodges in the United States have been formed! And *we say*, "their work is good."

Your Committee have not the means, if they had the time, to examine the manner in which the early Grand Lodges in the United States were formed, but they have no doubt that several of them were formed in States where Grand Lodges holding charters from the Grand Lodge of England, were established. *We know* that such a Grand Lodge was established in Massachusetts and in New York, and we believe in Virginia, and had our masonic fathers assumed the position now assumed by some of our best and most talented brethren, the Grand Lodge of England would, at this moment, be claiming the right of masonic rule over Blue Masonry in the United States!

We would be the last to advocate the establishment of a Grand Lodge in a jurisdiction where one regular Grand Lodge has been already established. Our views on that point have been again and again expressed, and they have not changed, and they will not change. But this Canada matter is, by no means, that case—no *Grand Lodge*, in our acceptation of the meaning of that term, existed there. There was a body called a "Provincial Grand Lodge," the Grand Master of which held his office by the appointment of a *bona fide* Grand Master 1000 miles away! and there were four or five other bodies claiming just as much masonic legality as this *subordinates* of the Grand Lodge of England, who had equal rights with her, and who did, we apprehend, the most toward forming the new Grand Lodge.

At the annual communication of this Grand Lodge, in November, 1848, a charter was granted to establish at San Francisco, California, "California Lodge, No. 13." That charter was duly issued and the Lodge placed upon our Register of Lodges.

Now, we will suppose that, in conformity with the established practice of the Grand Lodge of England, in the formation of foreign masonic bodies, this Grand Lodge had seen fit to have called her subordinate "the Territorial Grand Lodge of California," and to have entitled the brother, then installed, "its Grand Master." What, assuming the views of some of our worthy brethren in relation to the case under consideration as correct, would have been the result? Why, when our worthy brethren of California, hailing as they did, from various Grand Jurisdictions, met and formed "the Grand Lodge of California," the act would have been heralded to the world as "rebellious," "illegal," "schismatic," and the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia would have been said to have been invaded, and "the Grand Lodge of California," in contradistinction to our *Provincial Grand Lodge*, would have been shut out from the great Masonic Union of Grand Lodges!

Seriously, your Committee can see no difference in the two cases, and yet every well informed brother will unhesitatingly admit the ridiculousness of any such claim as the latter would have been!

In the resolutions reported by your Committee in May last, and adopted by this Grand Lodge, was avowed, our full regards for the rights and prerogatives of the "Grand Lodge of England and the other Grand Lodges under which some of the Canadian Lodges

were working." We again avow our high respect and regard for those Grand Lodges, nor do we believe that, in view of the high reputation justly enjoyed by the freemasons of England, for generosity, magnanimity, and brotherly love, that the Grand Lodge of England will, for any length of time, withhold its recognition of the new Grand Lodge of Canada, especially when it is so well known to them that the craft in Canada have been *unanimous* in their desire for some amelioration of the subservient condition they have occupied for years past, and that those who have not joined in the formation of the new Grand Lodge, are not less anxious than they were prior to its formation, that the Grand Lodge of England should secure to them, by a surrender of the rights they still acknowledge, a condition of what they deem legitimate independence. The Grand Lodge of England must be convinced of the propriety of some course toward the craft in Canada, which shall unite them in one brotherhood, and it is the hope of your Committee that the true course will be to acknowledge the new Grand Lodge and advise the brethren in Canada not affiliated with it, to unite at once with it, where they will, doubtless, be received with open arms, and a perfect masonic union be formed in Canada that shall exist for ever. Glorious would that day of union be for Canadian masons—glorious for the masons of the United States—glorious for the masons of England—glorious for masonry everywhere! "So mote it be!"

As your Committee were about closing this Report, the Chairman received from our M. W. Grand Master the "Report on the masonic difficulties in Canada, adopted by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts," on the 10th of September last. That Report takes the opposite ground from that which has been taken by us, and, as the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts is one of the oldest in the United States, and embodies among its members some of the *great lights* of masonry of the present day, we have felt it to be our duty to give that Report a careful perusal, and to weigh its arguments well, in order to find whether it would convey to our minds any evidence that in differing from the Committee of that most respectable and respected body, we had erred in our conclusions.

We have carefully read that Report. It sets out the facts that "That portion of the Fraternity in Canada under the Grand Lodge of England is governed by three Provincial Lodges;" that "the Provincial Grand Masters are appointed by the Grand Master of England;" that "the dues paid by each Lodge to the Mother Grand Lodge are, for each charter or warrant of Constitution, \$25, for each Diploma \$1.50, also a small charge for Registering;" that "the Grand Lodge of Scotland has only two or three Lodges under her jurisdiction in the Upper Province;" that she has "a number in the Lower Province, and it appears from the Reports of her Provincial Grand Master there that all these stand firm in their allegiance;" that "the Grand Lodge of Ireland has about fifteen Lodges."

We con- these facts as additional evidence that the craft in Canada are severed into parcels, and have no general head, but are

* The Grand Lodge of Scotland, has not even one Lodge in the Upper Province, and but two in the Lower, to wit: "Egion," in Montreal, and St. Andrews in Quebec.—ED. PIONEER.

amenable to the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland.

The Committee of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts then proceed to state all the difficulties existing among the craft in Canada, in substance as we have heretofore stated them in our report, and, we believe, differ in no point in stating facts, except that they also speak of *the one exception* to the unanimity of the Independent Grand Lodge, on which we have before commented, as if it were contained in the statement of that Grand Lodge. Again we say *there is no such exception contained in our copy of that statement.*

They also say, "our Brethren state in their communication that forty-one Lodges concurred in the formation of their Grand Lodge; but this does not seem exactly borne out by subsequent information."

On this statement we take issue, for we find no evidence to sustain it, and we bring the Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge to the stand to support the statement made by the circular of the Independent Grand Lodge. Secretary Richardson says, in his circular, of the 41 Lodges there represented, 15 were from the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge; 10 from Canada East; 1 from Quebec; 15 under warrants from the Grand Lodge of Ireland." Now if 15, 10, 1, and 15 added together do not make 41, we confess ourselves grievously at fault in the first and simplest rule of arithmetic. And with all the examination we have been able to make, we have failed to find the first evidence to sustain, what the opponents of the Independent Grand Lodge have so zealously striven to prove, that the circular of the Independent Grand Lodge has misstated facts.

The Massachusetts Committee after fairly and explicitly stating as we have said, all the difficulties existing among our Canadian Brethren, come to the grave, and, as we view it, very cool, and, to us, surprising conclusion, *that they make out simply cases of inconvenience and nothing more.*

Our Brethren in Canada with hardly any, if any, exception, as we are *officially told from all sides*, have, for years, deemed their position such as to demand some action of the Grand Lodge of England, to relieve them from what they certainly believed to be heavy grievances, and the Independent Grand Lodge circular states those grievances at length; and the Massachusetts Grand Lodge with the coolness of the individual who thought the flood was not much of a shower after all, pronounce them *simply inconveniences.*

Your Committee agree with the craft in Canada, "that *they are grievances* and heavy ones too, from which, as the Grand Lodge of England did not relieve them, they are justified in relieving themselves.

Differing *only* in this *simple conclusion*, further argument between our Massachusetts brethren and ourselves, would be a waste of time, as if what we have already said will not induce them to retrace their steps, we despair of saying anything that will, and, most certainly we shall not retrace ours, for we solemnly and sincerely believe we are right and they are wrong.

We will, however, notice especially one point further of the Report of our Massachusetts brethren. They say: "The naked question to be met is briefly as follows, viz: Whether it is consistent with the recognized laws or customs of freemasonry, for any por-

tion of the Lodges under a particular jurisdiction to secede from the parent body, without its consent, and to form, of their own authority, a new body, having an independent existence and independent powers."

Your Committee have already answered this question with a strong negative, and they again say, that where there is one legitimately formed Grand Lodge, with a number of subordinates, holding charters from it, in any masonic jurisdiction it is not consistent with the recognized laws or customs of freemasonry, for a portion of those subordinates to secede from the parent body without its consent.

But every official paper before your Committee, and even the Massachusetts Report upon which they are now commenting, shows that the position of the craft in Canada presented no such aspect. For, from that Report we gather the facts that there were no less than three Provincial Grand Lodges under the Grand Lodge of England, with their Provincial Grand Masters, and Lodges of at least six different registries, some paying dues under one system of assessment to England, some under another, to Scotland, and some under still another to Ireland, and all based on different acts of the distinct Provincial Grand Bodies!

The Massachusetts Committee have stated a case in which we cordially agree with them, but unfortunately for their conclusion it does not exist in this contest.

How could such a number of different organizations be expected to proceed harmoniously? and the great wonder, with your Committee is, how the enlightened Grand Lodge of Massachusetts could ever have come to the conclusion they did, from the premises on which they started!

The Massachusetts Committee say that "the new Grand Lodge of Canada has been acknowledged by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and also by two of the Grand Lodges of the United States." Your Committee have seen it stated elsewhere, and they have no reason to doubt the fact, that the following Grand Lodges are in affiliation or correspondence with the new "Grand Lodge of Canada, viz:—The Grand Lodges of Ireland, Michigan, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Louisiana, Kentucky, Alabama, Vermont, Indiana, Iowa, Florida, Connecticut, and Oregon."

A worthy and esteemed Brother, who has given this subject much attention, writes to the Chairman of your Committee, thus:—"I have no doubt as to the strict constitutionality of the organization of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and believe, the time will come, when every Gr. Lodge of the Union, will recognize it as such.

Your Committee submit the following resolution, and recommend its adoption.

Resolved,—That the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, seeing no reason to recede from the position she has already taken, re-affirms the resolutions unanimously adopted at her semi-annual communication, in May last, recognizing "The Grand Lodge of Canada," as an independent Masonic jurisdiction.

(Signed)

B. B. FRENCH,
HERMAN H. HEATH, } Committee.
Y. P. PAGE,

G. I. of D. Col.
Nov. 4, 1856.

On reference to our advertising columns, it will be seen that a Grand Masonic Ball will be given on New Year's eve. We know that no expense will be spared to make this the Ball of the season.

Many of our readers will remember with delight the agreeable evening they spent at the Masonic Ball of last year, held in the Mechanics' Hall. The intended one is in every way to eclipse the past.

As under the recently amended and adopted Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Canada, the principal Officers of each subordinate Lodge are to be chosen by the ballots of its members, and as the election in the Eastern section of the province will take place previously to the issuing of our next number, we take the present opportunity of offering to all concerned a few reasonable words of advice.

Our Constitution says, that "all preferment among masons is grounded upon real worth and personal merit only." This axiom should be ever prominent in the mind, and should mainly guide the judgment of every brother. Those among us who have best squared their lives and actions by "the moral principles of truth and justice," whose conduct has been marked "by a correct and modest deportment;" who have been regular and punctual attendants to the duties and labors of the Lodge, readily and cheerfully conforming to its votes and laws; always taking a lively interest in its welfare, and on all occasions displaying an energy and aptitude for business—are they alone upon whom the duties and honors of office should be conferred. Unless such are chosen, it may be relied on, that a Lodge cannot be efficiently worked, and that order, harmony, and discipline preserved so essential to render its meetings instructive and interesting.

We would strongly urge upon every man who has the prosperity of the craft at heart, to be present at the election of officers, and by his presence and vote, aid in putting "the right men in the right places.

The brother clamorous for office, but who from habits, education, or disposition is incompetent to properly discharge its duties; he, whose chief, or only qualification is his proficiency in the ritual; or he who craves advancement, to gratify his own vanity, should be carefully excluded from it. The selection of such would undoubtedly tend to operate against the interest and success of the Lodge.

Sectarian, national or political opinions should not in the most remote degree influence a vote; from such feelings every brother should carefully divest himself on entering the sacred portals of the Lodge, the single object to be had and kept in view by all, in the election of office bearers, should

be the interest of the Lodge in particular, and the honor of the institution at large—and this we fervently trust will be the case at the forthcoming elections in Lower Canada. So mote it be!

GRAND LODGE OF OREGON.—This Grand Lodge has, in the handsomest manner, recognized and received into fraternal fellowship, her youthful sister, the Grand Lodge of Canada.

NEW LODGE IN QUEBEC.—We understand that a petition has been received by the R. W. Deputy Grand Master for a warrant to constitute a new Lodge in Quebec, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, to be called "La Loge Champlain," and that there is no doubt the prayer of the petition will be granted.

M. W. Phillip C. Tucker, Grand Master of Vermont, D. G. H. P. of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, &c., &c.—This learned and eloquent masonic veteran, accompanied by his lady and daughter, visited Montreal at the time of our recent Railroad Celebration. He was the guest of R. W. Brother Bernard, D. G. M. A number of our brethren called upon him and presented an address, to which he responded in a most able and eloquent manner. We will endeavour to find room for the address in our next issue.

WAKED UP AT LAST.—We learn with pleasure that a considerable cargo of Grand Lodge certificates from England have recently arrived in this city for brethren in Canada. Some of these had been ordered and paid for a long time since. One, for our old friend W. Bro. Noxen, now of New York eighteen years ago. It is gratifying to find that the somnambulists of the Grand Secretary's Office, are being aroused from their slumbers. A few more such movements as that which has taken place in Canada, might perhaps keep them awake.

GRAND LODGE OF KENTUCKY.—We learn with pleasure that the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, at its last Communication, recognized the Grand Lodge of Canada as a legal and regular body of masons, cordially extending the right hand of fellowship to the brethren under its jurisdiction, and warmly welcoming it into the great family of masonic Grand Lodges.

We understand the M. W. Grand Master Bro. W. M. Wilson has been invited to lay, with masonic ceremony, the foundation stone of a new Town Hall to be erected at Cobourg, C. W., and that he has consented to do so. A Special Meeting of the Grand Lodge has, we believe, been summoned at Cobourg for the 18th instant, to perform the ceremony. We hope there will be a large attendance of brethren from both sections of the Province.

Neither Scotland, nor Ireland had Provincial Grand Lodges in Canada, Scotland had two P. G. Masters—and two subordinate Lodges.—Ireland had 15 Lodges but not even one Provincial Grand Master. These errors in fact however, do not affect the argument of the Committee.

EDITOR PIONEER.

To the M. W. Bro. Col. Wilson, Grand Master of Canada.

CASE.

In a Lodge of master masons in Canada a brother proposed a candidate, stating that the petition was duly signed, but that he had omitted to bring it with him from his residence. The Worshipful Master consented to receive the application, and the Lodge not making any objection tacitly approved it, until the Secretary observed that it was irregular, and that he could not enter on the minutes the reception of a petition or any other document which was not in possession of the Lodge. The W. M. insisted that the Secretary was bound to obey him, ordered the petition to be duly entered and appointed a Committee of enquiry thereon, and was supported by the Lodge. The Secretary would not admit that he was bound to obey an unlawful command and thus infringe on the landmarks of the Order by the dictum of the W. M. and in defiance of a Resolution passed some short time previously, directing that the Christian and surnames of every candidate should be written in full length before his petition could be received; great irregularities having therefore been passed over repeatedly. The Secretary consequently tendered his resignation at the next regular Lodge, which was accepted and his successor appointed.

Your opinion is respectfully requested as to the regularity of the proceedings on the part of each Officer, for the information and government of the Lodge in future.

REPLY.

Were the brethren more generally to avail themselves of the large amount of information now placed within the reach of all, by means of the masonic Press, such "cases" as the foregoing, would never have to be submitted for official decision.

It is a principle of masonic law that the Master is supreme in his Lodge, and is amenable for his conduct in the government of it, not to its members but to the Grand Lodge alone, and it is the authority and dignity with which his office is clothed, that preserves and maintains that spirit of discipline which pervades every part of the institution and to which it is mainly indebted for its prosperity and perpetuity. Any appeal, therefore, from the Master of the Lodge, to its members, is unknown in masonry. If a member is aggrieved by the conduct or decision of the Master, he has his redress by an appeal to the Grand Lodge, which will, of course, see that the Master does not rule his Lodge "in an unjust or arbitrary manner." As to the resignation of his office by the Secretary and the acceptance of it, by the Lodge, there can be no doubt that both were wrong, for no Officer can resign his office after he has been installed. Every Officer is elected for twelve months, and at his installation solemnly promises to perform the duties of his office, and hence the Lodge cannot permit him, by a resignation, to violate his obligation of office. Another rule is (I quote the words of the learned Dr. Mackey) that every Officer holds on to his office, until his successor has been installed. It is the installation and not the election which puts an Officer into possession, and the faithful management of the affairs of masonry, requires that between the election and installation of his successor, the predecessor shall

not vacate the office, but continue to discharge its duties. In the absence of the Officer the duties of his office must be temporarily discharged by some other brother, to be appointed from time to time by the presiding Officer.

It is the duty of the Secretary to record all the proceedings of the Lodge "which may be committed to paper," and had the Secretary in this case, borne this in mind, he could have entertained no doubt as to what his duty was on the occasion referred to.

W. M. WILSON, G. M.

Simcoe, 1st September, 1856.

CASE.

A visiting brother, when in the anti-room, before the board of trial for admission, demanded an inspection of our warrant, previous to his answering any questions. Is it consistent or masonic, that the said charter should be taken from the Lodge Room (the Lodge being open) for the inspection of said visitor?

ANSWER.

A visiting brother has a right to demand an inspection of the warrant of Constitution of any Lodge he may wish to visit, he has not only a right but it is his duty carefully to inspect it, before he enters the Lodge, in order that he may satisfy himself of the legality and regularity of its character and authority.

The same rule, of course, applies to Lodges working under dispensation as this instrument supplies the place of a warrant of Constitution.

WM. M. WILSON, G. M.

Simcoe, 15th September, 1856.

Extract from minutes of Brant Lodge No. 22, of Free and Accepted Masons, Brantford, C. W.

Regular Monthly Lodge, 9th Sept., 1856.

"Bro. Rawlings laid before the Lodge the first four numbers of the "Canadian Masonic Pioneer," published at Montreal, and earnestly requested the attention of the W. M. and brethren thereto; and the same having been taken into consideration in open Lodge, it was moved by bro. Malloch, C. W., seconded by bro. Prayn, J. W., and unanimously Resolved,— "That this Lodge hail with great satisfaction the publication in question as an organ of masonry on our own soil. That a copy thereof be forthwith ordered for the use of the Lodge, and carefully preserved among its archives as a valuable record of Canadian masonry. And that a copy of this Resolution be sent the Editors of "the Pioneer, signed by the Secretary."

[A true copy.]

T. CHEESMAN, Secretary.

To the Editors of the MASONIC PIONEER.

DEAR SIRS AND BRETHREN,—I am much gratified to know that numerous Brethren of our Royal Art, have testified to the able qualifications you possess, as Masonic writers, to the success which the "Pioneer" has attained, and to the amount of good which your zeal in the cause, and love for the Fraternity, must ultimately accomplish.

Since the memorable day of the erection of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and the establishment of your medium for the circulation of its injunctions among the Craft, freemasonry in West-

ern Canada seems to have received a fresh germ of life, and to have grown, and its sphere of influence over the moral worth of the nation, adding its vigour and intelligence. Now at the sound of the gavel the Canadian workmen go up to re-build the temple—wind or storm, sunshine or shower no longer prevent the Craftsmen from prosecuting their work. Zeal and fidelity prompt them to stability and perfection, with a knowledge of the art, now make the weary take fresh courage and pursue the tenor of their way to the accomplishment of their task.

I was present at the last Regular Meeting of the Lodge of Strict Obedience, held in this City, (the room in which the Grand Lodge was erected), the temple though large was comfortably filled with workmen from the hills of Scotland and Newfoundland, the valleys of New Brunswick and the United States, and from many temples situated between the Eastern and Western limits of Canada. The East was radiant with light, the West showed not darkness; while the meridian rays of the South cast a brightness over the vast expanse, traversed by the "lesser luminaries."

Here the usefulness of the "Pioneer" was acknowledged by all, the talents of its conductors appreciated, and its worth testified to, by those whose names I enclose as subscribers. This approbation by the Lodge of Strict Obedience I would convey to you, with the assurance "that they trust, that by the assistance of the great Architect of the Universe, the "Pioneer" may become increasingly valuable to the "Masters in Israel," while by it the knowledge of their art may become more, and more extended among the Craft.

Wishing you every good gift,

Yours fraternally,
HENRY GRIST.

Hamilton, Oct. 30th, 1856.

GRAND MASONIC BALL.

Members of the Craft, and the Public, are respectfully informed that A GRAND MASONIC BALL, Under the Patronage of the Craft generally in Canada, will be held at the

DONEGANA HOTEL,
ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.

Members of the Craft will appear in full Masonic Regalia.

TICKETS admitting a Lady and Gentleman, \$5 each.

Tickets will be issued and further particulars given in a few days.

A. HOFFMUNG,
Secretary of Ball Committee.

Nov. 29.

REGALIA!

THE undersigned, Agent for English Manufacture of every description of

MASONIC REGALIA,
Military Gold Trimming, Swords, &c.

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Descriptive and Price Lists forwarded to any address on receipt of a Post paid application.

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Montreal, December, 1856.

THOS. RAWLINGS,
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House Broker,
BRANTFORD, C. W.
November 1, 1856.

T. IRELAND,
CARD AND SEAL ENGRAVER,
26 Great St. James Street,
MONTREAL.
November 1, 1856.

ALEXANDER MCGIBBON,
WHOLESALE & RETAIL
Grocer, Wine, Ale & Spirit Merchant
No. 154 Notre Dame Street,
MONTREAL.

F. J. RASTRICK,
Architect and Civil Engineer,
Hamilton, C. W.

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siastic, Heraldic and Domestic Stained Glass.
Designs and Estimates furnished on application.
Specimens may be seen at the Office.
June, 1856.

PAUL MONDOU,
Passenger Agent, Vermont Central R.R.,
No. 65, Commissioners Street,
MONTREAL, C.E.
June, 1856.

R. J. FOWLER,
PROFESSOR OF MUSIC,
9 St. DOMINIQUE STREET,
MONTREAL.
June, 1856.

ON DRAUGHT,
SALT & Co.'s EAST INDIA PALE ALE,
From Burton on Trent. Also, Guinness & Sons
DOUBLE EXTRA STOUT.
SHAKSPEARE INN,
St. Francois Xavier Street,
GEORGE LULHAM.
June, 1856.

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Commission Merchant & General Agent,
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June, 1856.

THE OTTAWA HOTEL,
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MONTREAL,
CONDUCTED IN THE AMERICAN STYLE.

THE OTTAWA HOTEL stands in the very
heart of the business part of the City, being
in the same street and within two minutes walk
of the Post Office and Banks.
The **PARLORS** and **BEDROOMS** are light,
airy and well ventilated; the **TABLE** is always
supplied with the best to be found in the Markets;
and the **WINES, LIQUORS** and **CIGARS** are un-
variably of the choicest brands.
CARRIAGES will be in attendance at the Rail-
road and Steamboat Depots, on the arrival of Cars
and Boats.

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of every description, Electro Silver Spoons, Forks,
Cruets, Cake Baskets, &c., Papier Maché Ware,
Clocks, Musical Instruments and Fancy Goods,
the whole of which will be offered at prices that
defy competition.
MASONIC JEWELLERY manufactured to order.
June, 1856.

JOHN MARTIN,
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294 St. PAUL STREET, (WEST),
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MERCHANT TAILORS,
144 Notre Dame Street, Montreal,
Wholesale and Retail Clothiers, and Manufactur-
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Jewels, Working Tools, &c., &c.
June, 1856.

JOHN HELDER ISAACSON,
NOTARY PUBLIC,
No. 24 St. FRANCOIS XAVIER STREET,
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June, 1856.

M. MORRISON,
ADVOCATE,
53 St. Francois Xavier Street, Montreal.
July 1, 1856.

COLLEGIATE SCHOOL,
CHARLES NICHOLS,—PRINCIPAL,
12 Great St. James Street,
MONTREAL.
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DR. BERNARD,
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Mechanical Dentist and Manufacturer of
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133 CRAIG STREET, MONTREAL,
Agent for the New York Teeth Manufactur-
ing Company.
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Sells for cash only at unusually low rates, and
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No. 8, Common St., Gillespie's Buildings.
All orders and consignments made to them will
meet prompt attention and quick returns.
June, 1856.

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MONTREAL HOUSE,
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MONTREAL,
J. W. COLEMAN.
June, 1856.

British Commercial Life Assurance Co.
OF LONDON,
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Prospectuses and all information can be had at
the Offices of the Company, No. 12 Great St.
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With other Branch Offices through British North
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Prospectuses, Reports, Forms of Application,
and all information will be furnished at the Head
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JAS. H. PHILLIPS, President.
DAVID HUNTER, Secy.
July 1, 1856.

PHILLIPS, GRAVELEY, DUFRESNE & Co.,
Life, Fire, and Marine Insurance Agents
and **Brokers,**
OFFICES:—No. 12 Great St. James Street, Mon-
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July 1, 1856.

THOMAS BRODIE,
EASTERN HOUSE,
BOWMANVILLE.
July 1, 1856.

A. WILSON,
CONFECTIONER,
Corner of Notre Dame and St. Peter Streets.
MONTREAL.
July 1, 1856.

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