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THE CRAFTSMAN;

AND

CANADIAN MASONIC RECORD.

Bros. T. & R. WHITE,
Publishers.

'The Queen and the Craft.'

\$1.50 Per Annum,
in advance.

VOL. IV. HAMILTON, ONT., DECEMBER, 1869. No. 3.

MASONS AND MASONS.

FOR THE CRAFTSMAN, BY G. S.

CHAPTER III. PRO AND CON.

"Well, what do you think of him?" asked Lockyer, after we had got home again, and could talk quietly.

"Who—Stuart? I think he is a fine, plucky fellow, and that it's a pity he did not succeed."

"But he did succeed. He overlapped Gregory on the Albert. The traverse is complete from sea to sea."

"By no means, until he had struck the Albert. And, what's the good if it was? We have plenty of rock and sand and scrub nearer home, without going into the wilderness to find it."

"Harry, you are a gross materialist, and incapable of appreciating such a man as John MacDougall Stuart. Your argument would apply every bit as correctly to Sir John Franklin or to Dr. Livingstone, and you might just as reasonably ask what was the good of the North Pole, or of Lake Nyanza."

"Without any desire to speak disrespectfully of the Equator, the latter is a question I have often propounded. As to the other, I am quite satisfied with the evil in the loss of the valiant Governor of Tasmania and all his people, for which misfortune I have never heard even the suggestion of an equivalent."

"Well, if you will be a Philistine, I suppose you must," said Fred.

contemptuously. "But, if you won't admit, or are careless of the scientific gains of the expedition, at least you cannot be insensible to its peculiar interest for ourselves. It is a most mysterious and solemn discovery that Masonry should have made its way through the wild tribes of this trackless continent, and that black men, who never saw a white one before, should be ready to spare him in their wrath, upon the prompt recognition that he too was a brother."

Here I fairly laughed outright at the ex-deacon. "It is a most mysterious and solemn discovery," I answered, "to find an undergraduate of Christ Church abandoning himself to any such rubbishy fancies. The black man who never saw a white one is not nearly so sentimental; and when you chance to meet him I would strongly recommend your signalling him from your rifle, in preference to awaiting any fraternal advances from his boomerang."

"But you heard what Stuart distinctly told us! You don't mean to disbelieve him?"

"I heard him distinctly tell us that he would have reached the Indian Ocean but for an armed native opposition too formidable to break through; and that among the ferocious savages his whole company would have been killed and cooked had he not been able to announce himself as a Craftsman, and so secure fraternal protection and hospitality. That was the tale I heard, as well as I remember it."

"And you mean to tell me you don't credit it?"

"I mean to ask,—do you? The narratives of explorers are always to be taken *cum grano*. In the first place they are enthusiasts—not unfrequently visionaries. The solitudes they traverse are in the highest degree stimulative of the imagination, and the blank monotony of the succeeding days creates a longing for episode, in which a fanciful day-dream grows to tangible consistency. After a man, whose business is to find something, has been for weeks toiling through the Sahara, I believe that his objective and subjective perceptions become inextricably entangled, and that, with the honestest intentions in the world, half of what he writes down in his note-book has been evolved from his own inner consciousness."

"A polite mode of saying that such adventurers are commonly crazy. Was Sturt, was Kennedy, was Leichardt?"

"Kennedy and Leichardt are dead in their tracks, and their names, like Franklin's, are sacred. But that they should have bartered lives so valuable for information so little interesting may, perhaps, without irreverence, be said to offer instance of sublime impracticability, rather than of keen worldly wisdom. And as to Sturt: there's his map on the shelf behind you. What do you say to his Great Stony Desert, and his Inland Sea, and his huge Horse-shoe Lake, and all the rest of his

marvels? Sturt was an honest man and a gentleman, and nobody ever accused him of wilful deception; yet it is perfectly certain that he wrote down elaborate descriptions of things that have no real existence, and in which he very probably believes still, when everybody else in the world has abandoned them."

"It is one thing to be mistaken in the extent of a sheet of water, and another to take an outsider for a Mason," said Lockyer. "A man might be incorrect in his measurement of a certain plateau, without being necessarily liable to dreams of salvation from fricassée. There is no analogy between geographical theories and personal experiences. Stuart told us either truth or falsehood; and to me, at least, he does not look like an impostor."

"Do you suppose anybody whose personal experience has brought him face to face with the bunyip must be an impostor? And, even granting your dilemma, there was wonderful temptation. It was necessary to account for the retreat, and it was necessary to embellish the path. And then Stuart is a clever man, and conciliatory, and he may have got round the simple-minded natives diplomatically,—more as a medicine man than a Mason. If he did make masonic overtures, it was creditable to his modesty to attach importance to their efficacy; but other people will be more inclined to give the credit to his own tact and daring."

"I don't see why you should be at pains to explain away a simple statement of fact, which cannot but be gratifying. If you were the bitterest Anti of the States you couldn't be more unbelieving."

"Perhaps not; but I could be much more subtil. What do you suppose Faith is to gain from alliance with Superstition? These legends echo sonorously through the Lodge atmosphere; but let Stuart tell his story upon Change to-morrow, and he will be laughed at for a zealot, and the Craft derided as a puerility. Who is going to explain for him where his black fellows learned their lore?"

"Light is from the East," proclaimed Lockyer sententiously.

"Ay, and we are in 142°, and ought to have intelligence above such clap-trap. But Light is altogether too far from the East for you to argue that such mean orientals are its children. And if they be not inspired, who have been their instructors?"

"Why ask? It is of no moment. Enough for us to find the culture ready to our uses, without puzzling over how it came there. We have but to employ it and be thankful. Do you suppose the builders of the Temple worried themselves as to who had hewn their marbles, or shaped their cedars? They found each man his material fitted to his hand, and assigned it unhesitatingly to its proper niche. And shall we, whose toil is in the nobler temple, resting its pillars on the corners of the

earth, and calling all humanity to worship beneath its dome, cavil at the foresight of the Master because the encouragement he vouchsafes is unexpected and inexplicable! Nay, when that encouragement is peculiar as here, when the blocks offered for our building bear the guarantee of the legitimate trade-mark, shall we brand ourselves with the infinite ingratitude of debating the source of their provision, and, where a brother has laid them well and wisely, and in due humility, affect to correct his under-estimate of his labour, and persuade him that his own chisel has been the vulgar instrument of their fashion!"

Lockyer spoke with an earnestness to which he rarely yielded, and which was not without effect, as earnestness seldom is. But the argument was palpably *ad captandum*, so I stood staunchly to my guns.

"Supposing then that Stuart was right, and that its masonic talisman really saved his party—supposing, that is, that the cannibals he encountered were real *bonafide* Freemasons under some Obi or Fetish constitution—does it not strike you as a fact little creditable to the Order, that its teachings, elsewhere vindicated as sublime and elevating, should have been welcomed by a barbarism the darkest and most revolting, and should have failed in imparting the faintest gleam of humanity to natures whose morality is absolutely at the zero of the race they dishonour? I should be far better pleased to acknowledge the masonic area as circumscribed, rather than to hail the scoundrels who killed Cook at Owhyhee as disciples of the precepts of my creed."

There were the light of triumph in Fred's eye, and the smile of victory upon his lip, as he answered Socratically.

"Who said anything about moral precepts in the premises? Not Stuart that I remember, and certainly not I."

"Does not Masonry imply them? Surely it is not from you that I shall learn that it means nothing beyond empty ritual and hollow ceremony! Why, even Alexandre Dumas gave it a better character when he made Cagliostro its Grand Master."

"Precisely. But does not religion, for instance, mean also something beyond empty ritual and hollow ceremony, and is therefore every Sunday evening worshipper in St. Paul's a devout Christian? Or will you refuse to kneel in the Madeleine because you remember Charles IX and Coligni, or blush to admit your protestantism in the recollection of James I, and Bartholemew Leggatt! If a king to whom the authorized version is dedicate, and a bishop who rebuilt the great cathedral, could conspire to burn a man in Smithfield, merely for being Arian, may it not be possible for a Mason to be no better than either, unenlightened by the liberality of his tuition, as were the others by the example of their Master."

"Of course nobody expects individual perfection. But there is no

parallel. Religion is insensibly imbibed by children according to the accident of birth and situation, while it is, with half the world, mechanically retained by manhood as convenient, respectable, and popular. Masonry is deliberately adopted in maturity. Besides, Charles IX, Torquemada, Mary, Elizabeth, James, in their worst tortures believed, or affected to believe, that they were truly serving their cause. You will not make the excuse of masonic fanaticism for the blackfellow who stews his grandmother. Nor can you set isolated acts of civilised cruelty against a whole national ethics of loathsome bestiality. The fact remains, as you will have it, eternally to our shame. The wretches are the most degraded of God's creatures and—Masons."

"Stay! Words not unfrequently deceive us. There are Masons and Masons. There are men, who are not black, acquainted with the outward symbols of our profession and trading on them through the world, who have never given a thought to the truths those symbols represent, or to the grand lessons to which they give the key. Upon such men the right to wear an apron confers no safeguard against degradation nor claim to be counted of the Chosen. Acquaintance with the alphabet never yet taught a child philosophy, nor the knowledge of notation made a schoolboy an astronomer. The mere fact that these savages preserved sufficient dull tradition to recognize a brother, in no degree impugns the power of the inner light whereof they need. But it shows, pretty conclusively, to what humiliating a level it is possible for the mere formalist to subside, and, if for nothing else, is worthy of the record it has won."

There seemed something in this—a view not occurring to me before. Still there was an obvious difficulty and I stated it.

"Individuals misusing their opportunities are plentiful on all sides. But the unanimous perversion of the education of a community is another matter. Among ourselves you can point easily to exceptional false Masons. Among these blackfellows indicate only one exceptional true one, and I promise a modified scepticism."

"The unanimous misuse of opportunity and perversion of education has plenty of national precedent. 'Ye have the Pyrrhic dances yet, Where has the Pyrrhic phalanx gone?' asks the poet of the degenerate sons of Pelopidas and Lysander. What Greek living moulds as did Phidias or colours as Apelles? What Roman patrician, languidly airing himself on the Corso, emulates the leap of Curtius or the defar... of Horatius Cocles? Which Khedive of Cairo shall erect a novel pyramid, or at whose bidding again shall flow the harmony from Memnon's lyre? And is there any greater decadance from such vital Masonry as we most honour to such poor shadow of it as we have been discussing, than from the splendour of King David's matchless chivalry and the glory of his son's imperial sceptre to Fagin's kitchen in Whitechapel, or his

brother's crimping house in Wapping? The Feast of the Passover is solemnly kept through the length and breadth of Houndsditch, nor of unleaven bread is there any lack in Petticoat Lane. But not therefore exists the piety that destroyed Amalek or the constancy that won the Promised Land."

I was beginning to grow very sleepy and had mentally "schwore off" all future altercation with Junior Deacons, but there was one more arrow in my quiver, and I shot it bravely. "The Jews," I said, "are true to at least the theory of their revelation, though they may fail in its practice; they acknowledge an ideal, even where they never dare to imitate it. But your interesting clients know knothing, it seems, beyond what happened to serve Stuart's turn. The good-for-nothing Europeans you quoted, have the memory of departed greatness still left to sigh over, and, by the standard of the past, secretly confess their own unworthiness. How comes it, if their cases are in point, that your newly found brethren are unmindful of all that is worth memory, and ignorant of any by-gone age, in which light may have illuminated their dusky ancestors?"

"Can you positively affirm that they are thus ignorant, or are you sufficiently familiar with their tradition to define its annals? But, granting all your inference, what does it come to? Explain how these sons of Adam have degenerated from God's own image to the semblance of the baboon, and how the lithe grace of Eve, mother of all beauty, has come to develop itself in the hideous outlines of their lubras. The Earl of Zetland and King Bungaree are br th men, and may be both Masons. And if so, which discrepancy is the greater, the masonic or the masculine!"

"Freel," said I, "I have no time to night to convince you, and the fire is going out. So if you like to finish your grog to John McDougall's health, I am with you, and if he never meets decenter masons, may he never want as faithful a disciple! So mote it be!"

To be continued.

THE OLDEST MASON IN THE WORLD.—*Haverhill, Mass., October 26.*—Yesterday afternoon, the one-hundredth birthday of the Hon. Moses Wingate, of this town, the oldest Mason in the world, was celebrated by his immediate friends, and members of the masonic fraternity. He was born October 25, 1769; and was made a Mason in 1803. He retains his mental faculties.—*Sun.*

To EVERY man there are many, many dark hours, when he feels inclined to abandon his best enterprise—when his heart's dearest hopes appear delusive—hours when he feels unequal to the burden, when all his aspirations seem worthless. They are the common lot of humanity.

THE LIVING TEMPLE.

Not in the world of light alone,
 Where God has built His blazing throne,
 Nor yet alone in earth below,
 With belted seas that come and go,
 And endless isles of sun-lit green,
 Is all thy Maker's glory seen :
 Look in upon thy wondrous frame—
 Eternal Wisdom still the same !

The smooth, soft air, with pulse-like waves,
 Flows murmuring through its hidden caves,
 Whose streams of brightening purple rush,
 Fired with a new and livelier blush ;
 While all their burden of decay
 The ebbing current steals away,
 And led with Nature's flame they start,
 From the warm fountains of the heart.

See how yon beam of seeming white
 Is braided out of seven-hued light,—
 Yet in those lucid globes no ray,
 By any chance, shall break astray.
 Hark ! how the rolling surge of sound,
 Arches and spirals circling round,
 Wakes the hushed spirit through thine ear,
 With music it is heaven to hear.

Then mark the cloven sphere, that holds
 All thought in its mysterious folds,
 That feels sensation's faintest thrill,
 And flashes forth the sovereign will ;
 Think on the stormy world, that dwells
 Lock'd in its dim and clustering cells !
 The lightning gleams of power it sheds
 Along its hollow glassy threads !

O Father ! grant Thy love divine
 To make these mystic temples thine !
 When wasting age and wearying strife
 Have sapp'd the leaning walls of life ;
 When darkness gathers over all,
 And the last tottering pillars fall,
 Take the poor dust Thy mercy warms,
 And mould it into heavenly forms !

—OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

A MASONIC CRISIS.

Our readers are already aware that some of our brethren in the Province of Quebec have established a so-called Grand Lodge for that Province, and have issued circulars asking recognition from the other Grand Lodges throughout the world. As announced in our last issue, the M. W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in view of these proceedings, summoned an emergency communication of Grand Lodge, which was held at Montreal on the 1st inst. That our readers may be at the earliest moment placed in possession of the facts, we publish this month an enlarged number of the CRAFTSMAN, containing the proceedings of Grand Lodge. The address of the M. W. the Grand Master will amply repay a careful perusal. It gives a succinct and clear statement of the proceedings taken by him in the crisis in which he found himself placed; and it has this special merit, that it gives the case of our Quebec brethren who have seceded, in the very language used by them—a proceeding which, although involving a much longer address than usually comes from “the Throne,” was necessary to a full and fair understanding of the whole case. It will be seen by the report which we publish, that the important resolutions submitted by the committee of Grand Lodge, those relating to the constitutional question involved in the proceedings taken by certain brethren in Quebec, were unanimously adopted. There was a division only upon the fourth resolution, and, as will be seen, the question involved on that point was simply this: whether the seceders should be summoned at once to show cause why expulsion should not take place, or whether six months should be allowed before that extreme course was adopted, during which time the excitement that prevails may be allowed to subside, and Grand Lodge be in a better position, in view of the progress of events in the meantime, to come to a wise and moderate conclusion.

There will be abundant time and opportunity between this and the meeting of Grand Lodge, when some more decisive action must be taken, to discuss the points involved in this unfortunate dispute, and the Craft may depend upon the fullest discussion being permitted in these pages. We shall gladly afford to our seceding Quebec brethren, or to brethren in Ontario who sympathize with them, an opportunity to state, as forcibly as they can do so, the argument which, in their view, justifies the recent proceedings. The question is one to be discussed in a friendly, not in an angry, spirit, and with reference to principles and to the interests of Freemasonry, and not to the feelings or wishes of individual brethren; and, discussed in this spirit, we cannot but believe that a conclusion will be arrived at, calculated to promote the best interests of Freemasonry in these Provinces.

In the meantime, there are one or two general principles which may

as well be stated, and which, in our view, makes it impossible that a Grand Lodge can be, by the mere motion of subordination, Lodges in the Province of Quebec, and without reference to the parent Grand Lodge, established in that Province. It is argued that, in consequence of the Act of Confederation, the Province of Quebec has become "unoccupied Territory," and that, legally and constitutionally, can be formed therein a Grand Lodge, irrespective of the Grand Lodge of Canada. But, if this position can be maintained, then the Grand Lodge of Canada ceased to exist on the 1st July, 1867, and her Warrants lost their vitality. Surely this will not be contended. She has continued to be recognized as having jurisdiction over Quebec and Ontario; is in full communion with all other existing Grand Lodges, receiving from, and having with them, properly accredited representatives; and the Act of Confederation has in no way interfered with this state of things. All Lodges have continued to work under her Warrants in the Province of Quebec; one of her Annual Communications has been holden in that Province since the Act came into force; a Grand Master, residing therein, has, subsequent thereto, been elected for two consecutive years; the different districts, as established by her, remain intact, and the respective District Deputy Grand Masters have been annually elected under her laws, and have been installed and invested, and taken the obligation of allegiance to her year after year, without reservation of any kind,—the one for the Eastern Townships District being R. W. Bro. John H. Graham, who now claims to be Grand Master of the Province of Quebec, as being "unoccupied Territory;" the law has been strictly adhered to, requiring Quebec and Ontario to enjoy a proper representation as regards the annual election of Grand and Deputy Grand Master; and the place for holding her Annual Communications has been decided, without prejudice, to either section of Canada. All this has been done since July 1st, 1867, without even a suggestion that the Grand Lodge had, by the operation of an Act of Parliament, been dissolved. Surely, then, it is too late now to contend that such a result has followed from such a cause; and, if not, and that the Grand Lodge has not ceased to exist, then it follows that the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec has been unconstitutionally organized—seeing that there cannot legally be two Grand Lodges in the same Territory.

That, it seems to us, destroys all argument in favour of the constitutionality of a Grand Lodge for Quebec, based upon the political change of 1867. But there is another, and, to our mind, stronger argument, which ought not to be overlooked, viz: that the territorial boundaries of the Provinces have not been in any way changed by Confederation. The case of Virginia, and the formation of a separate Grand Lodge for the State of West Virginia, on its division during the recent war, has been cited as a precedent for the present action of certain of our brethren in Quebec. It is, perhaps, the only case on record which,

even in appearance, bears any analogy to the present; but a moment's examination will show that the analogy is only apparent, not real. Virginia was formally one State; the only boundaries recognized in connection with it were those of the State itself; one system of laws prevailed over every part of it, and, in all respects, it formed one undivided whole. The separation, therefore, which took place for political reasons, was a separation defining entirely new boundaries, theretofore unheard of and unknown. No such result followed the Act of Confederation, in so far as Ontario and Quebec were concerned. The Provinces were originally distinct and separate Provinces, each having its own Government and Legislature. In 1840, when the Union took place, the boundaries were still recognized,—each Province retained its own laws, each was, in fact, by the very Act of Union, treated as a separate existence, and had guaranteed to it certain rights, as, for instance, those relating to representation in the Parliament of the Union, which, in fact, partook largely of the Federal character. Under the law, they were recognized as Canada East and Canada West; and every Session of Parliament saw more acts passed applicable to each distinctly and separately, than to the two as a Union.

Now, it was under these circumstances that the Grand Lodge of Canada was organized, with the assent and co-operation of the Lodges in the Province of Canada East, now Quebec. They might, acting upon the principle which they now so strongly assert—that masonic and political boundaries are co-terminous, have then established a separate Grand Lodge for that Province. They did not do so; on the contrary, acting in a wise spirit, they resolved that one Grand Lodge for the two Provinces was sufficient, and they joined in the formation of that Grand Lodge. But what is worthy of remark is, that, in the formation of this Grand Lodge, they actually recognized the existence of two Provinces within its territorial jurisdiction, and provided for a fair representation of masonic authority for each. Having done this, it is altogether too late in the day to claim that they can now establish an independent Grand Lodge in one of those Provinces, on the ground that it is “unoccupied Territory.” Confederation has not altered the boundaries of the Provinces in any way; it has not altered the laws, nor has it altered the fact of special legislation for each in relation to those laws. It simply, in view of the introduction of two other Provinces into the general Union, has provided local Legislatures, where may be enacted those local laws. But, on all questions which were before matters of common concern, the Parliament of Canada still treats. We are sure our brethren in Quebec cannot have sufficiently considered these points, when they presumed to treat Quebec as masonically unoccupied territory; and we can only hope that, upon a fair and full review of the case, they will retrace the steps they have taken, and return to their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Canada.

FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

BY THE EDITOR.

Having already referred to the Royal Masonic Institution for girls in two former papers, we come, in the order of their establishment, to the second of these magnificent evidences of the practical character of English Freemasonry,—the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. This Institution owes its origin, in part at least, to the spirit of rivalry which prevailed between the two Grand Lodges, the “ancients” and “moderns,” during the period of the masonic division. The inception of what has since come to be known as the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, was due to the “moderns,” who in 1788 established the “*Cumberland Freemason’s School*,” and in 1798, ten years afterwards, the members of the “ancient” fraternity, not to be out-done in good works, established “The Masonic Institution for Clothing and Educating the Sons of Deceased and Indigent Ancient Freemasons,” His Grace the Duke of Atholl, Grand Master of the “Ancient” Grand Lodge, being its Patron. Six boys were at first put upon the Charity,—a small beginning for the magnificent result that has followed, but a beginning showing that our brethren of those days appreciated the genius and understood the objects of Freemasonry. In order to increase the funds for, and give greater stability and usefulness to the Institution, it was resolved in Grand Lodge, on June 3rd, 1812, that every Lodge in and adjacent to the cities of London and Westminster, upon the registering of every new-made Mason, should pay the sum of five shillings, and every country, foreign, and military Lodge, the sum of two shillings and sixpence, in aid of it. During the same year, the number of beneficiaries having in the meantime been increased to fifty, an appeal was issued to the brethren, urging larger subscriptions and a more liberal support; and in this appeal the desire of the committee “to purchase or build a suitable school-house,” is mentioned. But, curiously enough, no further reference to what must be regarded as a very essential element of success, is made in any of the reports until 1851, “when the project was resuscitated by a few earnest friends of the Institution, to whom the spread of the educational movement throughout the country suggested the necessity of measures calculated to ensure its proper position in an age of general progress, and who felt that no adequate improvement could be made until a home was provided wherein the boys might be brought under a well-organized system, and their health, comfort and habits, more carefully attended to than was possible under the limited supervision to which they had hitherto been sub-

jected." Appeals were at once issued, and were, as such appeals always are in England, liberally responded to. In 1856, a convenient building and ten acres of Freehold Land, at Wood Green, were purchased for £3500 stg.; and in 1857 the building, having undergone some alterations, was inaugurated as a school—twenty-five boys being admitted. So general was the interest felt in the success of the Institution, that in 1859 seventy boys were admitted to the privileges of a home and a school, in which they would be maintained, clothed and educated.

In the year 1862, so rapidly had the requirements of the Institution advanced, the committee determined upon the erection of a new building on the site, at Wood Green, which should be distinguished not only for its architectural excellencies and striking external appearance, but for its internal accommodation, and thorough adaptation for the great end and object of such a school, in its educational appliances and sanitary arrangements. The great interest which prevailed all through England in the success of this Institution, justified the committee in believing that the support necessary for so serious an outlay would be forthcoming; and in this they were not disappointed. In 1865 the school was opened—a noble building in itself, and admirably adapted for the purposes of an educational establishment—with eighty boys; the number being increased the following year to a hundred. We present our readers, in this number of the *CRAFTSMAN*, with a Leggotype of the building, from which they can form some idea of its character. They will see that the design of the committee has been fully realized, and that, in appearance, the Institution is a worthy representative of the principles which prompted its erection. The great effort made, in connection with it, has left it with a heavy debt upon it, amounting last year to £10,000 stg.; but a bold and successful attempt is being made to wipe this off: the object being an enlargement of the accommodation, so as to give room for the large number of applicants which are yearly rejected. The debt seems a very large one; but, when what has already been done is considered, it will be found not to be, by any means, beyond the resources of the Order speedily to liquidate it. As we have shown, the building was commenced only in 1862, and the cost of it, including furnisher and other internal arrangements, was £37,354-15-8 stg. So that, up to this time, nearly three-fourths of the entire cost has been paid. We shall, in our next, have something to say in relation to the system of management, and to the education imparted in this Institution.

THE Grand Lodge of Illinois recently closed its Twenty-ninth Annual Communication at Springfield. Bro. H. G. Reynolds was re-elected Grand Master. The next session of this Grand Body is to be held at Chicago.

THE EARL OF ZETLAND.

The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England has announced his intention of retiring from the high office which he now fills in the Craft. The simple retirement of a Grand Master is not in itself a circumstance of much importance; but in this particular instance, where the occupant of the office has held it for over a quarter of a century, the event is one which naturally excites great interest, and the most profound feelings of regret among our brethren in England. The *Freemason*, referring to his Lordship, says:

“The Earl of Zetland comes of a good masonic stock, as we shall prove in a few words. His grandfather, the first Lord Dundas, was Deputy Grand Master under the Duke of Sussex in 1813, and his father, the first Earl of Zetland, afterwards filled the same post, and died in 1839, Prov. Grand Master of England. Our Most Worshipful Brother was born on the 5th of February, 1795, and is consequently now in his seventy-fifth year. His masonic career dates from the 18th June, 1830, when, as the ‘Honorable Thomas Dundas,’ he was initiated in the Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 259, in which Lodge he eventually occupied the chair of Worshipful Master. His lordship was appointed Senior Grand Warden on the 25th of April, 1832; he succeeded the late Earl of Durham, as Deputy Grand Master, on the 24th of April, 1839, and followed the same lamented nobleman in the office of Prov. Grand Master in 1840; this high post he held at the death of H. R. H. the Duke of Sussex, in April 1843, when, by the Constitutions of the Order, the Earl became the Ruler of the English Craft until the next period of election, at which time, namely on the 6th of March, 1844, his lordship was elected Most Worshipful Grand Master, and was installed as such on the 24th of April following. In Royal Arch Masonry, Lord Zetland’s career has been equally brilliant; he was exalted on the 1st June, 1832, in the Prince of Wales Chapter, No. 259, and duly served in each of the principal chairs; he was appointed one of the Grand Sojourners in 1832; as Deputy Grand Master he became, *ex officio*, Second Grand Principal, and, of course, as Grand Master he was elevated to the dignity of Supreme Grand Z., in accordance with the Regulations of the Order. His lordship has also been Provincial Grand Master for the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire since 1835.”

During the reign of the Grand Master, the number of Lodges in England has risen from seven hundred and sixteen to nearly thirteen hundred; and the estimated membership, from twenty-seven thousand to eighty-four thousand five hundred.

WALSINGHAM LODGE, No. 174.—The following officers were elected for this Lodge for the ensuing year, on the evening of the 1st December inst. :—

W Bro Chauncey Bennett, re-elected W m; Bros John Hudson, S W; C Francis, re-elected J W; W B Franklin, m D, Treasurer; William Ross, re-elected Secretary; Jahn Collet, Tyler.

MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

QUESTION.—A man, by accident, loses an arm. Can his petition be received by the Lodge, he being in every other respect a fit and proper person to be made a Mason?

ANSWER.—Certainly not. No man can, according to the antient charges, be made a mason, “unless he be a *perfect youth, having no maim or defect in his body, that may render him incapable of learning the art.*” Our correspondent need hardly be told that the want of an arm would incapacitate a man for this purpose. There is a growing tendency to laxity in this matter which we very deeply regret; but the greatest violation of the antient charges of which we have heard has just occurred in Ireland, where the Grand Master, his Grace the Duke of Leinster, authorised the initiation of Mr. Kavanagh, M. P., who has neither legs nor arms.

QUESTION.—Is a brother, who has served as Warden of a Lodge in England, eligible for the Chair in a Canadian Lodge?

ANSWER.—We are disposed to think that he is, and would, indeed, have no doubt upon the subject but for a decision by the Grand Lodge of England on a somewhat similar point. The Constitution requires that every Lodge shall annually elect a Master, “such Master having served as Warden of a warranted Lodge for one year.” The English Book of Constitution contains precisely the same provision, in the same words; but it has been held that a P. M. of an Irish Lodge could not be elected to the Chair of an English Lodge: thus restricting the term, “a warranted Lodge,” to the particular jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge. A similarly narrow interpretation would exclude Wardens of Lodges in other jurisdictions from eligibility for election to the Chair in this; but the practice here has always been to recognize the Brotherhood as universal in its character, and to accord to brethren all the privileges which rank in this jurisdiction confers, wheresoever that rank may have been obtained.

QUESTION.—If a Brother petitions for affiliation, is accepted of, and fails to come forward for eighteen months, will the same by-law apply to him as to a candidate who has been approved for initiation?

ANSWER.—This is a matter which is entirely within the power of a Lodge to regulate by its own By-laws. By the ordinary rules of analogy, the By-law applying to profanes, should also apply to joining members; but it is important to point out that it does not in all respects do so. For instance, the rule which requires that a candidate, being rejected, shall not again apply until the expiration of twelve months, has been held by Grand Lodge, (see Proceedings 1867, page 367,) not to apply to brethren applying for affiliation. The cases, however, are somewhat dissimilar, and we have no doubt that the ordinary By-law requiring an accepted candidate to come forward within a certain period for initiation, should be held equally to apply to members applying for affiliation.

QUESTION.—What is the masonic rank in other Lodges of the W. M. of a Lodge U. D.? Can he confer degrees in other Lodges than his own? Grand Lodge recognises the rank, and gives a vote; and I take it that a W. M. of a Lodge U. D. can fill any office in Grand Lodge except an elective office.

ANSWER.—Our correspondent is mistaken as to the rights of W. M. of a Lodge U. D. in Grand Lodge. He has no status there, has no vote,

and cannot be elected to any office. Nor has he any status in virtue of his position in any other Lodge. A Lodge under dispensation is the creation of the Grand Master, not of the Grand Lodge; and the W. M. is simply the appointee of the Grand Master, to govern the Lodge until such time as the Grand Lodge shall see fit to confirm its existence by authorizing the issue to it of a Warrant. Pending that time, the W. M. has no other or greater rights, outside of his own Lodge, than those belonging to an ordinary Master Mason.

QUESTION.—Can a petition be received and a candidate proposed at an emergent convocation of a Chapter?

ANSWER.—The constitution is not very clear upon this point, but we are inclined to think that a proposition may be received and a candidate proposed at an emergent meeting. The constitution, under the head "of proposing members," declares that no mason shall be admitted "until he has presented a petition recommended by two companions, being members of the Chapter, and been regularly proposed at one convocation of the chapter," &c. It is evident that this convocation may be either regular or emergent, and in this respect differs from the practice in Blue Lodge, the book of constitution declaring that the candidate must be "properly proposed at one *regular* meeting of the Lodge," &c. But as this may in some cases cause inconvenience, the 4th section declares that in cases of emergency, two members may transmit in writing to the W. M., "the usual declaration of any candidate whom they wish to propose, and the circumstances which caused the emergency; and the Master, if the emergency be proper, shall issue a notice to every member, appoint a committee as before provided, and at the same time summon a Lodge," &c. There is no such provision for emergency in the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, and we are justified in assuming that the omission is covered by the clause not requiring the proposition to be made at a "regular" convocation. It is true that by section 14, page 30, it is declared in reference to a chapter of emergency, that "the reason for calling it, shall be expressed in the summons, and no other business than that specified, shall be entered upon at that meeting." But we do not think this applies to the proposition of members, seeing that the proposition is only a preliminary proceeding, and every member must have full notice before a ballot can take place. Under any circumstances, by inserting in the summons calling an emergent convocation the words "for receiving petitions and proposal of candidates," there is no doubt that such petition could be received.

GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.—The Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, took place on November 8th. The chief business was the nomination of office bearers for the ensuing year, and the granting of charters to new Lodges. The resignation of the Hon. Alex. Keith, as Past Grand Master of Nova Scotia, consequent on the erection of an Independent Grand Lodge in that Province, was accepted, and it was unanimously agreed to hold out the right hand of fellowship and recognition to the new Grand Lodge. We congratulate the Freemasons of Nova Scotia upon this event.

The following lines, from the pen of the late Bro. William Panton, of St. Clair Lodge, No. 135, will, we are sure, recall pleasant memories of the many good qualities of our departed brother to those who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and who, during his lifetime, esteemed him as a good man and a worthy Freemason :

Am,—*Auld Lang Syne.*

Dear brethren of the mystic tie,
Assembled here once more
Beneath the great All-seeing Eye,
Upon the chequered floor,—
We, mighty symbols recognize,
We, matchless wisdom share;
And signs and secrets keep and prize,
As "Craftsmen" of St; Clair;

Benighted wanderers on life's way,
We'll guide to Light and Love,—
Those glories of eternal day
In the Grand Lodge above.
We'll teach them how their work to prove,
By Level, Plumb, and Square;
With knowledge, nought can e'er remove
From "Craftsmen" of St. Clair.

Pure Faith shall point to joys to come;
Sweet Hope shall cheer us on
To bring bless'd Charity to some
Whose faith and hope are gone;
With Wisdom, Strength and Beauty's aid,
We'll build a temple fair;
And crowds will ask, could such be made
By "Craftsmen" of St; Clair;

Our three great Steps shall soon be past,
Our winged sands have sped;
Our Ark be anchored safe at last,
Beyond life's tempests dread.
But may our Columns, broken here,
Up-raise their chaptrels rare,
And in the Heavenly Lodge appear,
As "Master" of St. Clair.

Still may we Masons safely keep
Our Secrets, while apart—
Still comfort bring to those who weep;
Still soothe the broken heart.
Still may we on the Level meet,
Still part upon the Square,
And long enjoy communion sweet,
As "Craftsmen" of St. Clair.

MILTON, October 26th, 1869.

At the Regular Convocation of Carnarvon Royal Arch Chapter, No. 21 R. C., Montreal, held in the Masonic Hall, November 18th, 1869, the following Companions were installed officers for the ensuing masonic year by R. E. Comp. T. Milton, G. S. M. D:—

E Comps F m Sowdon, Z, by dispensation from m E Grand Z; C Storr, H; F Edgar, J; Comps T C Stratlou, S E; Wm Angus, S W; W T Franklin, Treasurer; J P Peavey, P S; H m Alexander, S S; S R Parsons, S S; G A Pease, Organist; R E Comp Rob't Noxon, Janitor.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

At an annual meeting of the UNION DE MOLAY ENCAMPMENT, held on Thursday evening, the 18th ult., the following officers were installed by Past Eminent Commander Robert Marshall, with the usual ceremonies:

Sir Knight Frs T A D Forster, Eminent Commander; Robert Marshall, Past Eminent Commander; James Domville, First Captain C C; G F Ring, Second Captain C C; Rev Dr Donald, Prelate; D R Munro, Treasurer; C U Hanford, Registrar; W C Perley, Almoner; Henry Duffell, Expert; E H Barteau, First Standard Bearer; Chas Potter, Second Standard Bearer; George Whiting, Captain of Lines; George Wilson, Sword Bearer; John Sweet, First Herald; Robert Shives, Second Herald; Wm Runciman, Equerry. *Council*,—Eminent Commander, First Captain C C, Treasurer, Registrar, Fratres Robert Marshall, Past E C, Jos C Hatheway.

Subsequent to the installation of officers, the Fratres adjourned to their Armory, where a luxuriant spread of the choicest viands were offered them. It is needless to say, a collision soon followed; and it being the first annual meeting, a very fraternal and knightly interchange of sentiment and intercourse passed between the Fratres. It was distinctly a marked evening in the annals of Knight Templarism in the Province, and an occasion to be remembered by many of the Fratres in the city. Regular and volunteer toasts followed, and were received with the honors peculiar to the Order:

“His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales”; “The Grand Conclave of England and Wales and the Dependencies of the British Crown”; “The Provincial Grand Conclave of the Dominion”; “Sir Col. McLeod Moore, Grand Prior of the Dominion of Canada”; “Frater The Hon. Alexander Keith, Provincial Grand Prior, Halifax, N. S.”; “Frater T. D. Harington, Deputy Grand Prior and Sub-Grand Prior of England and Wales”; “Frater Thomas Bird Harris, Grand Chancellor of the Grand Priory of Canada”; “The General Grand Encampment of the United States, coupled with the name of Sir Alfred Creigh, LL.D.”; “The Grand Conclave of Knights Templar of Scotland.”

The Sir Knights spoke friendly and feelingly to the many sentiments offered. The Frater who offered or submitted the names of the heads of the Order in Canada and Nova Scotia under England and Wales, referred in a very kind manner to their devotion to the fraternity, the interest taken by them in the introduction of the Order under the banners of England and Wales in this portion of the Dominion, and the formation of “The Union DeMolay Encampment and Priory.” Good fellowship, and a disposition to condemn what was wrong and approve what was right, was manifested throughout the evening. The occasion, taken all in all, was a very enjoyable one.

An American paper notices the presentation to Trumbull Lodge, in the State of Connecticut, of a large framed photograph of the Grand Lodge of Canada. Our contemporary says “it is a fine specimen of the photographic art, and the numerous faces of eminent masons, make it a valuable work to the fraternity.

ON the 2nd of August last, the Grand Lodge of Scotland elected the the Prince of Wales “Grand Patron of the Masonic Craft in Scotland.”

IT PREPARES THE WAY.

BY C. WOODHOUSE, M. D.

Masonry does this by so arranging its signs of recognition that a stranger in London, Chicago, or New York, need not long be without congenial acquaintances, "if worthy, and well qualified." Society is full of barriers to acquaintanceship. In the big cities, year in and year out, as is well known, next-door neighbors live and die, side by side, with only a brick wall between them, yet profound strangers to each other, because each, engrossed in his own cares and with his limited circle, and bound by social rules, cannot or dare not overstep the conventionalisms of fashionable usage, to bid the other a friendly good-morning. Pride and wealth interpose their barriers, also, to generous acquaintance, and many a lonely heart longs for a friendly word, a kind look, which they refuse to give.

Even a church acquaintanceship is often of the most limited, the coldest and most formal character. In a large parish, the minister knows but slightly many of his flock. He too often has his favorites, such is the infirmity of human nature, on whom to expend his courteous attentions. He gives the hand of fellowship in the broad aisle to-day to one—humble and poor—whom he fails to recognize in the broader streets to-morrow. While all classes look with suspicion or indifference on the stranger who appears in their midst; and this because they feel no special bond that binds them to greet him kindly, or because they say, to themselves, "Let every one look out for himself." So talks and acts a selfish world.

Now Masonry is pre-eminently a *social* institution. Masonry has gone before you, my brother Mason, to New York or London, and has prepared the way for you, and made it easy, if you conduct yourself properly and as becomes a good man and a Mason, to find friends to rejoice with you in your good fortune, to counsel you in difficulties, and assist you in perils and dangers.

Every good Mason recognizes this duty. Every worthy Mason, high or low, rich or poor, enjoys these "benefits." It is not too much to say, that herein consists one of the great merits of this ancient Order. Its members feel bound, they *are* bound by the strongest obligations, to extend to each other, when found worthy, the hand of fraternity and good will.

Why does an "entered apprentice" aspire to the "craftsman's" degree, and the craftsman to the sublime degree of a finished workman? Is it not that he may, in the spirit of lawful adventure, travel into other lands, and reap the reward of his attainments among those willing to receive him, not as a stranger and foreigner, but as a brother who has fraternal claims upon them?

It is very true this great privilege may be abused. What good thing cannot be abused? But the unworthy cannot long play the part of the imposter, nor the wolf long wear undetected the sheep's clothing. And even an occasional abuse of this privilege cannot counterbalance the immense advantages it brings to the upright brother. Still the abuse is great enough and frequent enough to put us all on our guard, and so preserve the benefits of our social life as free as possible from misdirection and evil. And to this end, nothing is more essential than that our moral lessons should be often enforced on the attention of our members, viz: "Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth."—*Mystic Star*.

NEW LODGES.—The M. W. Grand Master has been pleased to authorize the issue of Dispensations for the following new Lodges, viz:

"Norwood," at the village of Norwood, O. Regular night of meeting, Monday on or before full moon of every month. W. Bro. William E. Roxbury, Master.

"Zurich," at the village of Zurich, O. Regular night of meeting, Friday on or before full moon of every month. Bro. William Carrick, Master.

"Bernard," at the village of Listowel, O. Regular night of meeting, Wednesday on or before full moon of every month. W. Bro. George Towner, Master.

PERSONAL.—We are glad to learn that V.W. Bro. A. Diamond, W. M. of the Moira Lodge, Belleville, who was seriously injured about the head and face by a planing machine at the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, a few days since, is so improved that his medical attendants have now strong hopes of his recovery.

THE NEW GRAND MASTER OF ENGLAND.—At a quarterly meeting of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons, held at the Freemasons' Hall, London, on the evening of the first of December, the resignation of the Grand Mastership of Lord Zetland was accepted. Earl de Grey and Ripon was nominated as his lordship's successor. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was present, and received a hearty welcome. The attendance of brethren from all parts of the kingdom was unusually large.

THE BOAST.—"I am a Freemason," is as honorable as the ancient one—"I am a Roman citizen," but he who makes it should be such in reality—not in name only.

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION OF GRAND LODGE.

Pursuant to summons issued by authority of the M. W. the Grand Master, and published in our last number, a special Communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada was held at Montreal, commencing on the 1st December instant. There was a very large and influential attendance, one hundred and twenty-eight Lodges being represented, fifteen of which were situated in the Province of Quebec.

Grand Lodge having been opened in ample form, the Grand Secretary read the circular summoning the special Communication; and also the rules and regulations for the government of Grand Lodge during business, after which the M. W. the Grand Master read the following address:—

Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Canada,

It is to me a source of deep regret, that circumstances should have arisen within this jurisdiction, to necessitate the summoning of an Emergent Communication of Grand Lodge at this unusual period of the year. Notwithstanding the difficulty and inconvenience, which, I am aware, many of you must have experienced in assembling here at this season, it will, I think, be readily acknowledged that the events which have lately transpired in this Province are of such a nature as to require some action being taken on the part of Grand Lodge. The organization, on the 20th of October, of a so-called Grand Lodge for the Province of Quebec, a territory embraced within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, and over which it has exercised authority for the past fourteen years, and the repudiation of the allegiance due to the Grand Lodge of Canada, by any number of Lodges or Brethren, however few or insignificant, were occurrences of too much importance to be allowed to pass unnoticed or unquestioned. It is true that I might have exercised the prerogatives which belong to the high and responsible position which I have now the honor to hold; but I deemed it to be a wiser course to convene Grand Lodge at the earliest practicable moment, and submit a record of the official action I had found it to be my duty to take in relation to the movement in question, submitting at the same time such facts as have come to my knowledge in regard to its extent, and also my own views on the legal aspect of the case. Its history, extent, and nature, being presented in that form, will, I trust, enable Grand Lodge clearly to comprehend the true condition of affairs.

Early in September last, it was rumored here that an effort would shortly be made to effect, if possible, the dismemberment of this Grand Lodge, and that meetings had been (or would shortly be) held, having that object in view. Nothing, however, transpired to afford me any definite information on the subject; until the morning of the 25th of September, when I received the following letter:—

*Alex. Allan Stevenson, Esq.,
Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Canada.*

MONTREAL, 25TH SEPT. 1869.

MY DEAR SIR, AND MOST WORSHIPFUL BROTHER.—I have the honor to inform you that at a meeting of the Delegates from the various Lodges in the Province of Quebec, held in this city last evening, the following Committee was named to wait upon you,

and acquaint you with the action which at present it seemed desirable should be taken in regard to the interests of Masonry in this province, viz;—R. W. Bro. Graham, R. W. Bro. Isaacson, and W. Bro. Milton, together with the writer. As R. W. Bro. Graham proposes leaving town this afternoon, we would feel it an obligation if you would name an early hour this morning when the desired interview may take place.

Waiting your reply, I have the honor to be,

My dear Sir and Most Worshipful Brother,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

ALEXANDER MURRAY.

To which I replied :

MONTREAL, Sept 25th, 1869.

Alexander Murray, Esq.,

MY DEAR SIR AND R. W. BROTHER,—In reply to your favor of this date, informing me that a Committee consisting of R. W. Bros. Graham and Isaacson, W. Bro. Milton and yourself, had been named at a meeting of delegates of Lodges in the Province of Quebec to wait upon me and acquaint me with the action which it seemed desirable should be taken in regard to the interests of Masonry in this Province, and enquiring at what hour it would be convenient for me to meet those brethren, I have to say that half-past 11 this forenoon would answer me, if that hour would be suitable for the brethren named. It will, however, be necessary that R. W. Brother Gutman, D. D. G. M. for this District, be also present at the proposed interview.

I remain, Dear Sir and R. W. Bro.,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

A. A. S. SEVENSON,

Grand Master.

The Brethren above named waited upon me in accordance with this arrangement, but objected to introduce the subject on which they desired to consult me, if R. W. Bro. Gutman was to be permitted to be present. I called their attention to the express provision in my reply to R. W. Bro. Murray, that that officer should be present at the proposed interview, and further stated that whatever might be the nature of their business, I must positively refuse to hear anything relating to Freemasonry, which it would not be proper for them to say in his presence. That as District Deputy Grand Master, he had an undoubted right to know everything which transpired within his District, &c., &c. The deputation, after consulting together, asked leave to withdraw for a short time, and on their return, presented the following document :

THE UNDERSIGNED FREEMASONS, IN GOOD STANDING, BEG LEAVE RESPECTFULLY TO SUBMIT TO THE M. W. THE GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF CANADA, AS FOLLOWS :

That at a large and influential meeting of Brethren from various Lodges in the Province of Quebec, held in this city last evening, they were requested and deputed to wait upon the M. W. the G. M. of the G. L. of Canada, and to inform him that the said meeting unanimously expressed itself in favor of the formation of a Grand Lodge for the Province of Quebec, to be constitutionally established at an early date, and to ascertain from him whether he, as M. W. G. M., would be willing, at the earliest practicable time, to summon an Emergent Communication of the G. L. of Canada, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the important object they have in view can be carried out in a manner mutually satisfactory to all concerned.

J. H. GRAHAM.

JOHN HELDER ISAACSON.

THOS. MILTON.

ALEX. MURRAY.

MONTREAL, 25th Sept., 1869.

I read it over carefully, and informed those Brethren that so far as I then saw, there could only be one answer given to such a request—that they did not place before me any facts which would justify me in complying therewith—that the document itself, signed by four Past Masters,

gave me no information whatever as to the reasons which actuated them in making such a request, nor did it furnish any particulars relative to the meeting, whose delegation they purported to be, except that it was "large and influential." I concluded by saying that I would give the subject most earnest consideration, and would answer them more formally in a day or two. I subsequently learned that the meeting held on 24th September, had, previously to appointing the deputation to wait upon me, resolved to call a convention to be held on the 20th October, for the purpose of forming a Grand Lodge for the Province of Quebec, and that it had been agreed, that it mattered not what the nature of the reply received might be, it would not in any way alter their determination. Under these circumstances I conceived it to be my duty to summon those four brethren to appear before me, and accordingly on the 30th September I instructed Grand Secretary to issue summonses requiring them to appear on the 8th of October, to give an explanation of their conduct. Three of the brethren fyled an appearance, viz: R. W. Bros. Isaacson and Murray, and W. Bro. Milton, the latter of whom raised the question as to whether I possessed the power to summon him, he being a Past Master under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England. I replied that, in my judgment, he was attempting to subvert the authority of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and the fact of his belonging to a Lodge, working in this Province, by permission, under another jurisdiction, did not debar me from exercising masonic authority over him, when he set himself up in opposition to the Supreme Masonic Government of the country. R. W. Bro. Graham did not comply with the summons, nor with the *peremptory* summons issued to him on the 11th October. The explanations given by the other three brethren were most unsatisfactory. They admitted they had no grievances to complain of, nor did they show any advantages which would result from a division of our Grand Lodge. I pointed out to these brethren the impropriety of the step they were about taking, and the evil consequences to Freemasonry which must inevitably follow. I called their attention to the obligations which they had voluntarily taken, to uphold and maintain that which they were now attempting to destroy, and urged upon them, in the strongest possible terms, to desist from the agitation of the question for the present at least, and if it should turn out that there existed so strong a feeling on the subject as they then pretended, the question might come up for discussion at the next annual communication of Grand Lodge. With this they professed to be satisfied, but asked time to consult with their friends, which was granted. On the 11th, the same three brethren re-appeared, and informed me that they positively declined to withdraw themselves from the movement.

On October 12th, the following circular was placed in my hands, viz:—

To the Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, Officers and other Brethren of the several Lodges of A. F. & A. M., in the Province of Quebec:

BRETHREN,—At a large and influential meeting of Brethren hailing from different Grand Lodge jurisdictions,—held in the City of Montreal, on the 12th day of August, ult., and adjourned to, and held at the same place on the 24th day of September, inst., it was, after mature deliberation, unanimously resolved, that a circular be forwarded to all the Lodges in this Province, requesting them to be duly represented at a Convention to be held in the BRITISH MASONIC CHAMBERS, in the City of Montreal, on WEDNESDAY, the 20th day of October, at Seven o'clock, P.M., for the purpose of

taking into consideration the present state of Free Masonry in this Province; and to proceed, if so decided, to the formation of a Grand Lodge for the Province of Quebec.

Therefore we, the undersigned, Free Masons in good standing, having been deputed by said meeting, do hereby request all the Lodges in this Province, to be duly and constitutionally represented at the Convention aforesaid, if practicable by *all* their Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens, for the important object afore mentioned.

(Signed) J. H. GRAHAM, L.L.D., P.D.D.G.M., E.T.D.
 J. H. ISAACSON, P.D.D.G.M., M.D.,
 G. H. BORLASE, P.D.D.G.M., E.T.D.
 ALEX. MURRAY, P.D.D.G.M., M.D.
 THOS. MILTON, P.M., St. Lawrence Lodge, 640 E. R.
 THOS. WOOD, M.L.C., P.M., Prevost Lodge, 1.C.R.
 EDSON KEMP, W.M., do do.
 M. R. MEIGS, P.M., Stanbridge Lodge, 117 C.R.
 C. A. RICE, W.M. do do.
 J. S. BOWEN, P.M., St. Andrews Lodge, 356 R.S.
 H. P. LEGGATT, P.M., St. John's Lodge, 182 E.R.
 GEORGE VEASEY, Treas. do do.
 H. J. PRATTEN, P.M., St. Andrews, 356 R.S.
 J. P. PEAVEY, P.M., Kilwinning, 124 C.R.
 CHAS. STORER, W.M., Mount Royal, 202 C.R.
 H. ALEXANDER, W.M., Royal Albert, 167 C.R.
 W. B. COLBY, P.M., Golden Rule, 12 C.R.

MONTREAL, September 30th, 1869.

On its reception I lost no time in requesting the attendance of the Worshipful Masters of Montreal Kilwinning Lodge, No. 124, Royal Albert, No. 167, and Mount Royal, No. 202, whose names are appended to the above circular, (the only Brethren from Montreal who had signed it, except three whom I have previously referred to,) in order to ascertain whether any authority had been given them by their Lodges to take such proceedings. I found that these Masters had taken upon themselves to sign the document without any authority whatever from the Lodges, and that in two out of the three Lodges the question had not even been mooted. They (the Worshipful Masters) had no grievances to complain of, which would render a change of jurisdiction necessary, nor could they adduce any reasons which could be considered satisfactory, or which would justify them in the course they were pursuing. I adopted a similar line of argument with them as I had previously done in the case of the others before referred to, and I regret to say, the result in both instances was nearly alike. Accordingly having been satisfied that all attempts to induce those Brethren to place themselves in a proper position, would prove to be ineffectual, I was most reluctantly compelled to issue Edicts of Suspension against all the Brethren whose names are appended to the Circular calling the Convention, except one, W. Bro. Storer, who on the 14th wrote me to say that after the interview, for reasons given, he would refrain from active participation in the movement, but who, notwithstanding, on the 20th (which I received only on the 21st) wrote to say that for the reason assigned, he withdrew the promise he had made to me in his letter of the 14th. These Suspensions, of which the following is a copy, are still in force :

To—————

SIR AND BROTHER,—Whereas your name appears, as having been signed to a Circular addressed to the Worshipful Masters, Past-Masters, Wardens, Officers, and other Brethren of the several Lodges of A. F. & A. M., in the Province of Quebec, "requesting them to be duly represented at a Convention to be held in the British Masonic Chambers, in the City of Montreal, on Wednesday, the 20th day of October, at seven o'clock p. m., for the purpose of taking into consideration the present state

"of Freemasonry in this Province; and to proceed, if so decided, to the formation of a Grand Lodge for the Province of Quebec;" and whereas the calling of such Convention is an attempt to subvert the authority of the Grand Lodge of Canada within the said Province of Quebec, and is detrimental to the best interests of Freemasonry, calculated to disturb the peace, harmony and unity of the Fraternity, and in utter violation of your Masonic obligation, and the requirements of the Constitution;

Therefore, take notice that the M. W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. Masons of Canada, has, by the power vested in him, suspended you from all the rights, benefits and privileges of the Order of Freemasonry, and the said suspension to continue in full force during his pleasure, or until the Grand Lodge of Canada shall have taken action thereon.

Given under my hand and Seal of the Grand Lodge, at the City of Hamilton this Fifteenth day of October, A. D., 1869, A. L., 5869.

By Command of the M. W. Grand Master.

THOS. B. HARRIS,
Grand Secretary.

I also issued the following Edict to all the Lodges in the Province of Quebec, and at the same time forwarded copies to all the Past Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Master, and District Deputy Grand Masters of the various Districts throughout our jurisdiction:

To the Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and Officers of Lodges, and all Masonic Brethren, to whom these presents may come,—GREETING:

Whereas, it is within my knowledge, that certain brethren are agitating the question of the formation of a Grand Lodge for the Province of Quebec, (that Province being within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada,) and have held unauthorized and clandestine meetings for the purpose of promoting said object; at which meetings, arrangements were made for calling what is termed "a Convention," to be held in Montreal, on the 20th instant.

And whereas, these meetings have been called and held, contrary to the known opinions and wishes of the existing Masonic Authorities, and inasmuch as the objects contemplated thereby are of a nature calculated to destroy the peace, harmony and unity of the Fraternity.

Therefore, by the authority vested in me, as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, A. F. & A. M., having supreme Masonic Jurisdiction within the territory for which another Grand Lodge is sought to be established, I do, by these presents hereby expressly *prohibit* any of the Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens or Brethren connected with any Lodge hailing from and being under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, from attending such so-called "Convention," or taking any part whatever in any other meeting which may be hereafter called for a similar object; and I do further enjoin upon all the Brethren within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, to abstain from further agitation of this question, until the next annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

Masters of Lodges will, on receipt hereof, summon a meeting of their respective Lodges, at the earliest possible date, for the purpose of reading this Edict, in open Lodge, so that all the Brethren may govern themselves accordingly.

Given at the Office of the Grand Master, in the City of Montreal, Province of Quebec: this Twelfth day of October, A. D. 1869, A. L. 5873.

A. A. STEVENSON,
Grand Master.

I had hoped that this would have had the effect of postponing any action being taken on the subject, but the following document which was placed in my hands three days afterwards, will shew to Grand Lodge, not only the spirit in which it was received, but also the temper manifested by the chief promoters of the scheme.

To the Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, Officers and other Brethren of the several Lodges of A. F. & A. M. in the Province of Quebec:

BRETHREN,—Whereas an instrument in writing, purporting to be an edict of the M. W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, has been recently issued, with

the view to prohibit and deter Masons from using and exercising their just and inherent rights, and to attend a certain meeting called to consider the present state of Masonry in the Province of Quebec, &c., &c. (See Circular dated 30th September, 1869, and signed by the undersigned and others.)

Therefore we, the undersigned, hereby respectfully beg to warn you against said instrument, the same being informal, illegal, and unconstitutional, *not having the Grand Lodge Seal affixed thereto*

The undersigned respectfully request that, notwithstanding any improper attempt to coerce, the brethren of your Lodge will not be deterred from attending the meeting above referred to.

J. H. ISAACSON, P.D.D.G.M.

ALEX. MURRAY, P.D.D.G.M.

THOS. MILTON, P.M.

Montreal, October 15, 1869.

On the 14th of October, R. M. Bro. M. Gutman, D.D.G.M. for the Montreal district, attended in his official capacity, the regular communication of Zetland Lodge, No. 21, for the purpose of reading the above Edict and performing the work of the Lodge, (the W. M. being absent from the country,) and on that occasion, was so grossly insulted, his right to occupy the chair called in question in the most insolent and defiant manner, the Edict of the Grand Master being sneered at, and pronounced illegal and worthless, and the conduct of the members present being generally so contumacious, that he felt it to be his duty to suspend the Lodge and take possession of its warrant. His report, delivered to me the following morning, is as under:—

MONTREAL, October 15th, 1869.

A. A. Stevenson, Esq.,

M. W. Grand Master G. L., Canada.

DEAR SIR AND M. W. BRO.,

I hasten to inform you that at the Regular Communication of Zetland Lodge, No. 21, held last evening at Masonic Hall, Place D'Armes, I had the honor of presiding—the W. M. being absent in the United States. After considerable delay, and repeated calls for the officers to take their respective stations, I succeeding in getting the Lodge opened. A series of indignities was offered to the high office which I have the honor to hold; my right to preside was questioned, &c., &c. I succeeded, however, in maintaining order until after reading your Edict, forbidding the brethren to attend the so-called "Convention," to be held on the 20th inst. R. W. Bro. Isaacson arose, and stated that said Edict was illegal, lacking the Grand Lodge Seal; that what that document characterized as illegal he stated to the Lodge was *perfectly legal*; that he trusted the members of "Zetland" would not be intimidated by such a worthless piece of paper, &c., &c. After he had finished a speech of a rebellious and unmasonic tenor, I was greatly surprised and pained to find the members present endorse these seditious remarks by a unanimous and uproarious applause. I therefore felt it my painful duty to suspend said Lodge, which I accordingly did, taking charge of the warrant; and shall be glad if you will kindly appoint an hour when you will be pleased to receive this document from me. I need scarcely dwell upon the dreadful scene of uproar and confusion that followed my action; some of the members rushing at me with clenched fists, threatening personal violence, which, I am satisfied, was only prevented by the prompt and timely interposition of M. W. Bro. Bernard and one or two others who were present.

I have the honor to be, Dear Sir and M. W. Bro.,

Very truly and fraternally yours,

M. GUTMAN, D. D. G. M. Montreal District;

On the afternoon of Saturday, the 16th of October, the Warrant of the Lodge of Antiquity (of which R. W. Bro. Gutman is W. M.) was stolen or abstracted from the Lodge room, where it had been used at an

Emergent Communication of the Lodge held on the previous evening. The connection between the suspension of Zetland Lodge and this act of larceny, is apparent from a document received by me on the 18th, of which the following is a copy:—

MONTREAL, 18th Oct., 1869.

A. A. Stevenson, Esq.

SIR,—Unless the Warrant of Zetland Lodge be replaced in the hands of its Senior Warden not later than TUESDAY NEXT AT NOON, an important (?) masonic document now missing, will be *non est inventus*. The missing document to be sent by post to any officer indicated at the time.



I had no doubt as to the author of this production, but deemed it best, in view of the excited state of feeling which then existed, to allow the matter to lay over for a time, trusting that, on reflection, his own sense of duty and propriety would lead him to see the folly of the act, and induce a restitution of the document. So far, however, nothing has been heard from him on the subject. I authorized R. W. Bro. Gutman, the W. M., to continue the work of the Lodge of Antiquity as heretofore, and in case the Warrant should not be restored, a duplicate would be granted by this Grand Lodge.

On the 19th of October, having obtained evidence that Montreal Kilwinning Lodge had appointed delegates to the proposed Convention, I considered it to be my duty to suspend the Lodge, and accordingly issued the following Edict:—

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY CONCERN, GREETING.

Whereas, it appears that at the last Regular Communication of Montreal Kilwinning Lodge, No. 124, on the Registry of the Grand Lodge of Canada, A. F. and A. M., a resolution was duly proposed, seconded and adopted, appointing certain Brethren, members of said Montreal Kilwinning Lodge, to represent that Lodge at a so-called "Convention," to be held in Montreal, on the 20th instant, for the purpose of forming a Grand Lodge for the Province of Quebec, which Province is situated and included within the Territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, under whose warrant and authority the said Montreal Kilwinning Lodge has heretofore existed; and

Whereas, the adoption of the aforesaid Resolution, instructing the representatives named therein, to use their best endeavours to organize a Grand Lodge for the Province of Quebec, is an overt act of rebellion against the authority of the Grand Lodge of Canada in this Province, and is a practical renunciation of, and withdrawal from, the allegiance due by the members of Montreal Kilwinning Lodge to the Grand Lodge of Canada;

Therefore, in virtue of the power vested in me, as Grand Master, I do hereby suspend the Montreal Kilwinning Lodge No. 124, G. R. C., until the Grand Lodge of Canada shall have taken action thereon, unless otherwise ordered by the Grand Master. In consequence of this suspension, I furthermore demand on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Canada, from W. Bro. John P. Peavey, heretofore Worshipful Master of Montreal Kilwinning Lodge, No. 124, R. C., the immediate surrender of the warrant, books, papers and other property of the aforesaid Montreal Kilwinning Lodge, to be disposed of as the M. W. the Grand Master of Canada may hereafter determine.

R. W. Bro. M. Gutman, D.D.G.M. for the District of Montreal, is hereby empowered and required to serve this edict upon W. Bro. John P. Peavey aforesaid, and to make the demand aforesaid.

Thus done at the office of the Grand Master, in the City of Montreal, Province of Quebec, this Nineteenth day of October, 1869.

A. A. STEVENSON,
Grand Master.

The D. D. G. M. served the Edict upon W. Bro. Peavey, as appears from his report, which is as follows :

MONTREAL, October 22nd, 1869.

A. A. Stevenson, Esq., M. W. Grand Master G. L. C.

DEAR SIR AND M. W. BRO.—I have the honor to inform you that I duly served your Edict of Suspension on Bro. J. P. Peavey, late W. M. of Kilwinning Lodge, No. 124, R. C., which Edict likewise covered the suspension of said Lodge, and in obedience to your commands, did demand of Bro. J. P. Peavey a surrender of the Warrant, Books, Papers, &c., formerly the property of Kilwinning Lodge, No. 124, R. C. In reply to my demand for said documents, he answered: "I decline to deliver them until the Lodge decides it has no further use for them."

I have honor to remain, Dear Sir and M. W. Bro.,

Very truly and fraternally, your obedient servant,

M. GUTMAN, D. D. G. M.,

Montreal District.

I take this opportunity of correcting an error which I find prevails amongst our brethren in the western portion of our jurisdiction. It appears to be understood there that the suspensions of brethren and lodges in this Province took place *after* the organization of the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec. This, however, as will be seen from the foregoing, is not the case. These suspensions were all issued before the Convention was held,—the latest being the 19th of October. No official action of that nature has been taken by me since that date.

On the 20th of October, I had the pleasure of meeting in this city, M. W. Bro. Hall, the Grand Master of Vermont, who had been waited upon at his residence, Swanton, Vt., by a deputation from Montreal, who had strongly urged that M. W. Bro. to come here, to install the officers of the so-called Grand Lodge, which they intended to form. Learning that a difference of opinion existed on the subject, he thought it advisable to pay us a visit, and inform himself fully upon the subject. In company with M. W. Bro. Bernard, P. G. M., the representative of the Grand Lodge of Vermont, near the Grand Lodge of Canada, we enjoyed an exceedingly pleasant and, I trust, profitable interview. M. W. Bro. Hall did not attend the Convention, but returned home early next day; a very favorable impression having been produced upon all with whom he came in contact during his brief sojourn amongst us.

The convention met in the evening of the 20th October, in the British Masonic Chambers, one of its first acts being the setting aside the suspension of Zetland Lodge as null and void, declaring it yet in good standing, and entitled to representation at that convention. A so-called Grand Lodge, for the Province of Quebec, was subsequently formed, and officers elected and installed, as appeared from the following extract from the Montreal papers of the 22nd October :—

"MASONIC.—We learn that the convention of the several lodges of A. F. and A. M., in the Province of Quebec, holden at the British Masonic Chambers, Montreal, on the 20th and 21st of Oct, inst., pursuant to the circulars in that behalf issued, has resulted in the formation of a Grand Lodge for the said Province of Quebec.

The convention was very largely attended, and the following Lodges were represented, viz :—

St. Johns, No. 182, R. E., Quebec.

St. George, No. 440, R. E., Montreal.

St. Andrews, No. 356, R. S., Quebec.

Special Communication of Grand Lodge.

Prevost, No. 1, R. C., Dunham.
 Golden Rule, No. 12, R. C., Stanstead.
 St. Francis, No. 61, R. C., Richmond.
 Stanbridge, No. 117, R. C., Stanbridge.
 Victoria, No. 71, R. C., Sherbrooke.
 Kilwinning, No. 124, R. C., Montreal.
 Yamaska, No. 130, R. C., Granby.
 Shawenegam, No. 134, R. C., Three Rivers.
 Browne, No. 163, R. C., West Farnham.
 Royal Albert, No. 167, R. C., Montreal.
 Victoria, No. 173, R. C., Montreal.
 Ascot, No. 188, R. C., Lennoxville,
 Ashlar, No. 191, R. C., Coaticook.
 Frelighsburg, No. 199, R. C., Frelighsburg.
 Mount Royal, No. 202, R. C., Montreal.
 Doric, No. 204, R. C., Danville.
 Tuscan, No. 182, R. C., Levis.
 Zetland, No. 21, R. C., Montreal.

The following brethren were duly elected and installed officers of said Grand Lodge :—

M. W. Bro., J. H. Graham, L. L. D., P. D. G. M., E. T. D.,
 (Richmond), G. M.
 R. W. Bro. J. S. Bowen, P. M., (Quebec), D. G. M.
 R. W. Bro. M. R. Meigs, P. M. (Bedford), G. S. W.
 R. W. Bro. J. P. Peavey, W. M., (Montreal), G. J. W.
 R. W. Bro. Frank Edgar, (Montreal), D. D. G. M., M. D.
 R. W. Bro. W. B. Colby, (Stanstead), D. D. G. M., St. F. D.
 R. W. Bro. H. P. Leggett, (Quebec), D. D. G. M., Stadacona D.
 R. W. Bro. Hon. Thos. Wood, (Dunham), D. D. G. M., Bedford D.
 R. W. Bro. Rev. C. P. Reid, M. A., (Sherbrooke), G. Chaplain.
 R. W. Bro. S. McClung, (Three Rivers), G. Registrar.
 R. W. Bro. Edson Kempt, (Nelsonville), G. Secretary.
 R. W. Bro. W. B. Seeley, (Dunham), G. Tyler.
 V. W. Bro. H. M. Alexander, (Montreal), G. S. D.
 V. W. Bro. John Breakey, (Quebec), G. J. D.
 V. W. Bro. Charles Storer, (Montreal), G. S. W.
 V. W. Bro. A. W. Alexander, M. D., (Richmond), G. D. C.
 V. W. Bro. Charles McKenzie, (Quebec), Assistant do.
 V. W. Bro. Charles Alexander, (Montreal), G. Organist.
 V. W. Bro. James Reyner, (Three Rivers), Assistant do.
 V. W. Bro. R. C. Parsons, (Stanstead), Grand Steward.
 V. W. Bro. T. Leet, Richmond, do.
 V. W. Bro. L. J. Foss, (Sherbrooke), do.
 V. W. Bro. James Eddie, (Lennoxville), do.
 V. W. Bro. Geo. Woods, M. D., (Coaticook), do.
 V. W. Bro. C. P. Tabor, (Farnham), do.
 V. W. Bro. Chas. Rice, (Stanbridge), do.
 V. W. Bro. C. S. Rowe, (Clarenceville), do.
 V. W. Bro. R. Marvin, Frelighsburg, do.
 V. W. Bro. J. H. Bartlett, Granby, do.
 V. W. Bro. Wm. Armstrong, Montreal, do.

It will be observed that out of the first eleven names on this list, eight were at that time, and are still, suspended masons, and all the so-called officers were installed by a P. D. D. G. M., himself also, both then and now, a suspended mason.

On the 21st October, I instructed Grand Secretary to issue a circular to all our sister Grand Lodges, of which the following is a copy :—

GRAND LODGE OF A. F. AND A. MASONS OF CANADA,

GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

Hamilton, 25th October, 1869.

To the M. W. Grand Master, Officers and Brethren,

of the Grand Lodge of ———.

M. W. SIR AND BRETHREN,—I have the honor, by command of the M. W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, to bring to the notice of your Grand Lodge the existence of a rebellious and seditious movement by certain malcontent Brethren in the Province of Quebec, with the object and aim of establishing a *second* Grand Lodge within our territorial jurisdiction, the supreme control over which has been recognized and accorded to this Grand Lodge by every Grand Lodge in the world.

These rebellious Brethren, many of whom are under suspension, called a Convention, which met in the City of Montreal on the 20th instant, (at which the public prints report there were about twenty Lodges represented, less than one-half of the Lodges in that portion of our jurisdiction, and two of the Lodges mentioned had been suspended for the contumacious conduct of its members)—and formed a so-called Grand Lodge, electing officers, &c., &c. In the same report it is stated that Bro. J. H. Graham of Richmond, was elected Grand Master, and Brother Edson Kemp, of Nelsonville, Grand Secretary, &c. Doubtless this pretended organization will shortly make application to your M. W. Grand Lodge for recognition, counsel, and support. The Grand Lodge of Canada is preparing a circular which it is intended shall be sent to all the Grand Lodges with which it is in friendly and fraternal correspondence, containing full and complete information in regard to this most unmasonic and unconstitutional movement; and pending its reception, I am to express the hope that your Grand Lodge will in no manner accord a recognition to this irregular and clandestine organization.

I have the honor to remain,

Your obedient servant and Brother,

THOS. B. HARRIS,

G. Sec. Grand Lodge of Canada.

On the 23rd October, I issued letters to each of the D. D. G. Masters in the Province of Quebec, requesting them to obtain at the earliest possible moment, a statement of the number of Lodges in their respective districts which had taken action on this question, and to forward me a certified copy of the proceedings had in each case, so as to enable me to ascertain the exact position of every Lodge in the Province. From R. W. Bros. Walker and Gutman, (Quebec and Montreal,) I received prompt and satisfactory replies. From R. W. Bro. Stearns I learn by his letter of November 25th, that the Lodges in his district, (six I think in number,) have taken action "in favour of the Grand Lodge of Quebec," and he further informs me that "circumstances have prevented him from obtaining all the information I required." From R. W. Bro. Robinson, I have received a communication which I give entire, as it refers to the fact of his being about to leave Canada, a circumstance, which I feel certain, will be deeply regretted by every member of this Grand Lodge. That R. W. Bro. was eminently distinguished for his zeal in the cause of Freemasonry, and labored most indefatigably to promote its interests. To this Grand Lodge he was a peculiarly valuable officer, cheerfully giving his time and talents whenever required, to further every measure calculated to promote its prosperity and advancement. Whilst regretting the removal from amongst us, of so worthy a brother in every respect, we can confidently assure him that the recollection of his labors here will not soon be forgotten, and that he

carries with him our most sincere fraternal wishes for his increased prosperity and usefulness in the new sphere to which he is shortly to be called.

His letter is as follows:—

WATERLOO, Quebec, 25th Nov., 1869.

MY DEAR SIR AND M. W. BRO.—Your telegram has just been handed me on my return home, and I regret very much to have troubled you in asking for a reply to your letter of the 23rd ult. It came just as I was leaving for the United States, and I had not time then to attend to your instructions, but have since done so, and had hoped for replies in time to write to you by Saturday's mail. At any rate, I should have written then. I have not visited Prevost and Stanbridge Lodges, as directed in your letter of the 16th ult., as I was informed by one of them, through a Past Master, that I would not be received other than as a visiting brother. I wrote to the Secretaries of the Lodges that took part in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, asking them to send me certified copies of *all* the proceedings of their Lodges in reference thereto, which I will send you as soon as received.

The regalia is still in my possession. Efforts have been made to obtain it not at all creditable to the party who asked for it; but I will forward it to you.

I regret to say that I shall be unable to attend the Special Communication of the Grand Lodge next week, for I have to-day received a letter calling me to Baltimore on business.

I have also to add that I do not expect to return until about Christmas, and then only to remain a short time before finally leaving the country; so that I beg to tender you my resignation of the office of D. D. G. M. of the Bedford District.

I am very sorry not to have rendered more service to the Craft since my appointment, which I should not have accepted, had I, at the time, contemplated leaving the country.

I trust that the present difficulties may be amicably settled, and that the Brethren may all return to their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Canada.

Please accept my thanks for your regret at my leaving the country, and my assurance of esteem and regard for you as a friend as well as a Brother Mason.

Fraternally yours,

H. L. ROBINSON,

D. D. G. M. Bedford District.

A. A. STEVENSON, Esq., G. M. Grand Lodge of Canada.

On the 27th of October, I found it advisable to depute R. W. Bro. Gutman to proceed to Three Rivers, to investigate into a complaint which had been made by certain of the brethren of Shawenagam Lodge, No. 134. That R. W. Bro. fulfilled the task assigned him in a manner which met my warmest approval, and, on his return, he reported that the Warrant of that Lodge had also been abstracted from its usual place of deposit. In this case I gave the same authority as in the case of Lodge of Antiquity. Should the Warrant be retained for any length of time, a duplicate will, of course, be granted.

From the foregoing you will have learned something of the recent movement; a few words will now be in place regarding its extent.

In October last, there existed in the Province of Quebec 39 Lodges. Of these, 32 were under our jurisdiction; 5 under English jurisdiction (permitted by virtue of an arrangement entered into between the Grand Masters of England and Canada, in 1859); and 2 under Scotland. Total—39.

Of this number, 21 were *reported* to have been represented at the Convention which organized the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, two of which were under suspension at the time. Many of these Lodges, however, never gave any authority to be so represented—or rather, I

should say, *mis-represented*. This was principally done by Past Masters or Masters who attended the Convention, and took part in its proceedings, in the hope of getting their action afterwards endorsed by their respective Lodges. In other instances, a majority vote was considered sufficient to carry over the Lodge, and it was most assiduously instilled into the membership that it was the duty of every Mason to acquiesce in such a vote when duly passed; although the parties who taught such doctrine knew perfectly well that a majority, however large, cannot, and never could, transfer the allegiance of a masonic Lodge. Several of the Lodges reported to have been "*represented*" at the Convention, have since expressly repudiated all connection with the new movement, and remain true to their allegiance with this Grand Lodge. Of these, I may name Shawenagam, No. 134, Three Rivers, and Victoria, No. 173, Montreal. Mount Royal, No. 202, Montreal, I am positively assured, is now unanimous on the subject of remaining under the Grand Lodge of Canada, and will take action accordingly at its next meeting. St. George's, No. 440, E. R., Montreal, had only appointed a committee to watch the proceedings and report; but the members of the Lodge do not intend to commit themselves to the Quebec scheme. A number of the members of Zetland Lodge have presented me with the following petition:

A. A. Stevenson, Esq.,

MONTREAL, November 15, 1869.

Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BROTHER.

The undersigned members of Zetland Lodge, No. 21, C. R., beg respectfully to represent, that at the regular communication of that Lodge, held on October 14th, the District Deputy Grand Master, on account of insulting and contumacious conduct of certain of the members, suspended the Lodge, and took possession of its Warrant.

They also avail themselves of this occasion to express their regret that any indignity or insult should have been offered to either the District Deputy Grand Master, or any other Masonic authority.

They further state that at the time referred to, several Brethren, whose names are hereunto appended, held opinions favorable to the establishment of an Independent Grand Lodge for this Province; but after careful consideration, they are convinced that the proceedings adopted on the 20th ult., having that object in view, were of a precipitate and unmasonic character, and do not meet with their approval.

They therefore request that the aforesaid suspension, so far as it applies to them, may be removed, and that they may be permitted to continue the work of Zetland Lodge, as heretofore, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada; and inasmuch as the Worshipful Master is absent from the Province, and both of the Wardens are ostensibly working under what they call another Masonic Jurisdiction, they have further to request that you will appoint such Brethren as you may think properly qualified to discharge the duties of Master and Wardens for the time being.

We remain, Most Worshipful Sir and Brother,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

ALEX. HOLMES.

JAS. HENDERSON, M. M.

J. G. A. LEBLANC, M. M.

J. S. MARCOU, M. M.

A. J. CAMPBELL, M. M.

C. BERGER, M. M.

GEO. FLETCHER, M. M.

HENRY MILLEN, M. M.

J. L. TETU, M. M.

A. H. LOWDEN, M. M.

F. A. SPAULDING, M. M.

C. P. NAIGLE, M. M.

JAMES H. WELSH, M. M.

GEO. BLACK, M. M.

A. BERNARD, P. G. M.

In regard to which I issued the following:—

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME,—GREETING :

Whereas a memorial has been presented to me, bearing the signatures of a number of Brethren, members of Zetland Lodge, No. 21, C. R., setting forth the fact of that Lodge having been suspended on the 14th of October, by the District Deputy Grand Master for the Montreal District, expressing regret for the insulting and contumacious conduct which gave occasion for the suspension, and praying "that the aforesaid suspension, so far as it applies to the memorialists, may be removed, and that they may be permitted to continue the work of Zetland Lodge, as heretofore, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada," &c., &c., &c.; and having given the memorial due consideration, I do, by these presents, *exempt* and *release* from the operation, consequences, and effects of the suspension aforesaid, the following Brethren, namely: Brothers Alexander Holmes, James Henderson, Joseph G. A. LeBlanc, J. L. Marcou, A. S. Campbell, Charles Berger, George Fletcher, Henry Millen, A. H. Lowden, Fred. A. Spaulding, James H. Welsh and Geo. Black, who, together with M. W. Bro. A. Bernard, P.G.M., R. W. Bro. Edwin Morris, P.D.D.G.M., Bros. J. L. Tetu and C. P. Naigle, formerly exempted and released from the suspension aforesaid, are hereby permitted and empowered to continue the work of Zetland Lodge, under the Warrant of the Grand Lodge of Canada. Furthermore, for the reasons stated by the memorialists, I hereby nominate and appoint R. W. Bro. M. Gutman, D.D.G.M., and Bros. Jas. Henderson and Joseph G. A. LeBlanc, to act as Worshipful Master and Senior and Junior Wardens respectively, of Zetland Lodge, No. 21, R. C., until their successors shall have been regularly elected and installed in their stead. The suspension is to continue in full force and effect towards all the members whose names are not mentioned in this Edict.

This done at the office of the Grand Master, in the City of Montreal, Province of Quebec, this eighteenth day of November, 5869.

A. A. STEVENSON,
Grand Master.

As far as numbers are concerned at the present time, the case stands thus:

Lodges under our jurisdiction.....	18
do under English, as before explained.....	4
do do Scotland	1
Total.....	<u>23</u>

The others, so far as I know, are in sympathy with the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, but it ought to be mentioned that these Lodges are nearly all located in the Eastern Townships; a District presided over for several years by a D. D. G. M., who, I am informed, lost no opportunity during his official visits of urging upon the members of his Lodges the necessity and importance of withdrawing their allegiance from the Grand Lodge of Canada, and setting up an establishment of their own. It may also be stated that in nearly every Lodge adhering to that establishment, there are members who do not approve of the action taken by their Lodges, but who have not yet felt themselves in a position to oppose it in the manner which it is very probable they will shortly attempt. Meantime the re-action is setting in strongly, scarcely a day passing without some application being made by Brethren for information on the subject, and whilst large numbers disapprove in toto of the idea of a separate Grand Lodge, a still greater number condemn the mode by which it has been attempted to be carried out.

The so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, has not yet, so far as I am aware, issued any Manifesto to explain their position or to seek for recognition, but a document has been placed before me, which is addressed

"to the Brethren of the several Lodges of A. F. & A. M., of the Province of Ontario," bearing the signatures of 16 Brethren residing in the City of Montreal, (9 of whom are under suspension,) and although it purports to emanate from them, and to be circulated solely "on their own responsibility," it may nevertheless be taken as a statement of their case; these Brethren having with a few others, been the chief promoters of the scheme. As its circulation has been confined, for the most part, to the province of Ontario, I will be compelled, even at the risk of wearying your patience, to read the document, in order to make comments on such portions of it, as in my judgment require notice. Though issued as a "statement of facts," it yet contains many statements worthy of notice, but which are however not "facts," according to the usual and obvious meaning of that term. Its sections being numbered, are convenient for reference and comment, and will now be considered seriatim:

The introduction and first section read thus:

To the Brethren of the several Lodges of A. F. & A. M. of the Province of Ontario:

MONTREAL, November 18th, 1869.

We the subscribers, Officers of Lodges in the City of Montreal, having reason to believe that untrue reports have been circulated among our Brethren in the Province of Ontario, in reference to the recent action of the Free and Accepted Masons of the Province of Quebec, beg to submit the following statement of facts, for the consideration of the Masons of the Province of Ontario:

1. That at the time of the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and afterwards, and at the time of the confederation of the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, in the Dominion of Canada, the Lodges in the Province of Quebec were under four separate Governments, viz., the majority of the Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, two Lodges, one in Quebec and one in Montreal, under the jurisdiction and in direct correspondence with the Grand Lodge of Scotland; three Lodges in Montreal, under the jurisdiction and in direct correspondence with the Grand Lodge of England; and a Provincial Grand Lodge at the City of Quebec, under the Grand Lodge of England, with a Provincial Grand Master, Grand Wardens, and other Grand Officers, having jurisdiction over several Lodges in the City and District of Quebec. These Lodges were all acknowledged by the Grand Lodge of Canada, and all the efforts of the Grand Lodge of Canada, to induce the Lodges under foreign jurisdiction to unite under one common Government, have never been attended with success.

NOTE. No. 1.—This clause is speciously drawn, and is calculated to convey an incorrect impression. The idea of concurrent jurisdiction, though not expressly stated, is left to be inferred. Indeed, to any one unacquainted with the position occupied by the few Lodges working by permission under foreign jurisdiction, no other conclusion could be drawn than that this territory was *unoccupied*, that is to say, each of these Grand Lodges had an equal right to plant Lodges here and to exercise Masonic authority. The Lodges working under England and in direct connection therewith, and those working under England and corresponding through the Provincial Grand Lodge of Quebec are set down in this paragraph as being separate Governments, whereas it is well known that these Lodges were under *one masonic government*, the Grand Lodge of England, by permission, as is explained below. The fact is beyond dispute that the Grand Lodge of Canada is, and has been, since its organization in 1855, the only supreme Masonic authority in and over the territory formerly known as Upper and Lower Canada, now known as Ontario and Quebec. At the time of the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada by the Grand Lodge of England, the Grand Master of England stipulated with the Grand Master of Canada that the Lodges which

still adhered to the Grand Lodge of England, (6 of which were located in Lower Canada, and 3 or 4 in Upper Canada) should be permitted to work under England, so long as the membership of these Lodges desired so to do. Under this permission they have continued to work. But the Grand Lodge of Canada, so far as I can discover, has never taken any action thereon, and no efforts having been made by that body in the direction indicated, the failure alluded to in the last sentence proves to be only a pleasant fiction.

2.—That the Act of Confederation in dissolving the Legislative Union which existed between Upper and Lower Canada, placed the then created Provinces of Ontario and Quebec in the position of unoccupied territory in reference to Free Masonry; that this is acknowledged by the best Masonic authorities as in accordance with Masonic law on the subject, and in strict accordance with the precedents established in the United States.

NOTE, No., 2.—The point involved in the 1st part of this section will be taken up when considering the question of the legality of the position taken by these Brethren.

3.—That the fact stated in the last section were recognized by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, at their first Meeting after the passing of the Act of Confederation, viz., at Kingston, in July, 1867, as will be seen by the following extracts from the printed proceedings of Grand Lodge at that communication.

Copy of part of G. M. Wilson's address,—

A GENERAL GRAND LODGE.

“The new state of political existence upon which we are now entering, necessarily brings up for our consideration, the effect which it must to some extent, have upon our position as a Grand Lodge. The name, by which, for many years, we have been known and recognised in the Masonic world, becomes now, it is claimed a misnomer. The Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, which has supreme authority in that section of the new Dominion, is as much a Grand Lodge of Canada as we ourselves are. The distinguished brother who presided at your last annual meeting approved of the idea of a General Grand Lodge, having Provincial Grand Lodges in each Province, and the Board of General Purposes to whom the subject was referred, also reported favorably upon the suggestion made by my Most Worshipful predecessor, but at the same time advised that no immediate action be taken in the matter. What at that time was only an anticipation, has become a reality; and while I readily admit that there is something peculiarly pleasing in the idea of uniting all the members of our fraternity, who reside in the various Provinces now confederated together, into one grand body; and while contemplating also the probability of important territorial additions still to be made to the new Dominion, I must confess that I entertain grave doubts whether a union, embracing such an immense extent of Country, would have a tendency to promote the advancement of the best interests of Masonry on this continent. In Great Britain, as you are well aware, there is no General Grand Lodge; and in the neighboring Republic, each State has a Grand Lodge which exercises supreme Masonic authority in her own jurisdiction. In the year 1859, the subject of a General Grand Lodge for the United States was brought before a Committee of Grand Officers for consideration, and by referring to my address of that year, you will find that I at that time expressed the opinion, that the creation of a General Grand Lodge having jurisdiction over the several States of the Union would neither be expedient nor desirable.

In submitting, however, the whole subject to your careful consideration, I do not wish it to be understood that I either decidedly oppose or approve of the suggestion which has been made. All I mean to convey to you is, that thus far I have not been able to satisfy my own mind, as to the wisest course to be pursued under our present circumstances. But I earnestly request for it, that thoughtful and calm investigation which the great importance of the matter imperatively requires at your hands; and I would suggest, that its consideration be referred to a special committee, who may be able to report during the present session.

Copy of resolution carried in Grand Lodge.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. A. A. Stevenson, seconded by M. W. Bro. W. B. Simpson :—

That so much of the M. W. the Grand Master's address as has reference to the present position of the Grand Lodge, and the establishment of a Grand Lodge for the Dominion of Canada, be referred to a special Committee to be appointed by the M. W. Grand Master,—the remaining portion thereof to the Board of General Purposes.

In amendment,

It was moved by R. W. Bro. A. DeGrassi :—

That the whole of the address of the M. W. Grand Master be referred to the Board of General Purposes.

A vote of Grand Lodge having been taken on the amendment, it was declared in the negative.

A vote of Grand Lodge was taken on the original resolution, it was declared in the affirmative.

Copy of the Report of Committee :—

The Special Committee to whom had been referred that portion of the M. W. Grand Master's address having reference to the position of the Grand Lodge, submitted the following

REPORT.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Canada, in Grand Lodge assembled :

M. W. SIR, OFFICERS AND BRETHREN,—Your Committee, whom the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, in accordance with the vote of Grand Lodge, was pleased to appoint to take into consideration that portion of his address having reference to the formation of a Grand Lodge for the Dominion of Canada, beg leave to report, that having taken into their most careful and mature consideration that portion of the M. W. the G. M.'s address referred to them, have arrived at the conclusion that the best interests of Freemasonry require that the present position, standing, and name of this Grand Lodge be maintained ; trusting that the love of union, and a sincere desire to promote the best interests of Masonry, will induce the members of our Fraternity residing in other parts of the New Dominion eventually to unite with us in securing a harmonious and supreme Masonic government in the Dominion of Canada. And in order that this Grand Lodge may be perfectly cognizant of the mode in which your Committee arrived at this conclusion, they submit for the information of Grand Lodge, a transcript of their proceedings.

“ It was moved by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, W. M. Wilson, and seconded by the Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, W. B. Simpson :

“ That this Committee having anxiously and most carefully considered all the circumstances connected with the recent political change that has taken place, having arrived at the conclusion that the best interests of Masonry require that the present position, standing and name of this Grand Lodge be maintained ; trusting that the love of union, and a sincere desire to promote the best interests of Masonry, will induce the members of our Fraternity residing in other parts of the Dominion eventually to unite with us in securing a harmonious and supreme Masonic government in Canada.”

“ In amendment to the above, it was moved by R. W. Bro. A. A. Stevenson, D.G.M., and seconded by R. W. Bro. J. H. Graham, D. D. G. M., E. T. D., that all the words in the foregoing resolution after “require” be left out and the following words inserted, so that the whole would read thus :—

“ That this Committee, having anxiously and most carefully considered all the circumstances connected with the recent political change that has taken place, have arrived at the conclusion that the best interests of Masonry require the organization of a Grand Lodge in each of the four Provinces now constituting the Dominion of Canada, being satisfied that this course would be strictly in accordance with the laws and regulations of Freemasonry respecting the establishment of Grand Lodges, and believing that a more substantial union would thereby be secured ; and also that the affairs of the Craft would be much more effectively and economically managed by this method than by any other.”

"On division, the following vote was taken on the amendment :

"*Yeas*—M. W. Bro. A. Bernard, P. G. M. ; R. W. Bro. A. A. Stevenson, D. G. M. ; R. W. Bro. J. H. Graham, D. D. G. M.

"*Nays*—M. W. Bro. W. M. Wilson, G. M. ; M. W. Bro. W. D. Simpson, P. G. M. ; R. W. Bro. James Moffat, P. D. D. G. M.

"The above vote having been declared, M. W. Bro. T. D. Harington, P. G. M., chairman of the committee, voted "nay."

"On division, the following vote was then taken on the resolution :—

"*Yeas*—Brothers Wilson, Simpson and Moffat.

"*Nays*—Brothers Bernard, Stevenson and Graham.

"The foregoing vote having been declared, Bro. Harington voted "yea." Thus the original motion was carried by a majority of one.

"Signed by all the members of the committee:

J. H. GRAHAM,

D. D. G. M., E. T. D.,

Sec. for Committee.

"It was moved by M. W. Bro. W. B. Simpson, seconded by R. W. Bro. Jas. Moffat,

"That the foregoing report be received and adopted."

NOTE No. 3.—This section consists mainly of extracts from the proceedings from the Grand Lodge of Canada at the annual communication held in Kingston in 1867, which simply go to prove that the M. W. the then Grand Master, in his annual address, requested Grand Lodge to consider the effect which the then recent political changes would have upon our position as a Grand Lodge, expressly stating, that so far, he had not been able to satisfy his own mind as to the wisest course to be pursued. A special committee was named to consider the subject. The majority of the committee were in favour of the ultimate establishment of a Grand Lodge for the Dominion, the minority, if a change was to be made, preferred a Grand Lodge for each of the Provinces. It appears the whole committee signed the report, embodying the views of the majority. It should be explained in this connection that the question discussed in committee was simply this: a Dominion Grand Lodge, or a Grand Lodge for each of the Provinces. It was also perfectly understood when the committee rose, that some alterations were to have been made in the wording of the amendment, previous to submitting it to Grand Lodge, but owing to the mover having been suddenly attacked with illness, he had not an opportunity of making the necessary corrections. Whatever changes were made therein were not made by him, and from the cause above stated, not being present in Grand Lodge when the report was submitted, the matter was overlooked until some time after the proceedings were published. It was not considered of sufficient importance to be specially alluded to at subsequent communications, the agitation for a Dominion Grand Lodge having been discontinued, and this is the first opportunity which has presented itself where the explanation could be made.

4. That the Masons from the Province of Quebec in the Grand Lodge of Canada ; then consented to the postponement of the question for a time, at the urgent request of the Masons of the Province of Ontario, and G.M. Wilson, in consideration of their having done so, promised to a number of the Brethren from Quebec that, if at any time they had reason to believe that any of the Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Scotland or England intended to form a Grand Lodge of Quebec (which they had a right to do,) that he would summon a meeting of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and arrange an amicable separation.

NOTE, No. 4. The postponement referred to, was accomplished by a distinct vote of Grand Lodge, as appears from the printed proceedings of that year, (1867). The promise said to have been given by our most distinguished Bro. P.G.M. Wilson, is so utterly at variance with the views which he has uniformly expressed, that I am morally certain that an injustice has been done him by the publication of the above sentence. I am convinced he has either been misunderstood or his remarks have been misinterpreted.

5. That no further action was taken by the Masons of Quebec till just previous to the meeting of the Grand Lodge of Canada in July, 1868, but that, in that month R. W. Bro. Borlase, P. D. G. M., E. T. D., invited the Brethren of all the Lodges in the Province of Quebec to meet in the City of Montreal and discuss the question. The meeting was held in the Masonic Hall, and representatives attended from a large number of Lodges. It was then resolved that, as the action of the Masons of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in forming Grand Lodges for these Provinces had rendered the formation of a Grand Lodge for the Dominion impracticable, that it was advisable that immediate action should be taken to unite all the different jurisdictions in the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario under two separate Grand Lodges, and the representatives to the Grand Lodge of Canada, from Quebec, were instructed to bring this matter before the Grand Lodge in London, and to take immediate action thereon. That when the representatives from the Province of Quebec to Grand Lodge met in London, it was stated to them that it was the earnest desire of the most prominent Masons of Ontario that the separation should still be delayed for a time, and further that, as a security, that their rights would be respected in the meantime, it was the intention of the Masons from Ontario to elect one of their number as Grand Master. That the representatives from Quebec again consented to delay the settlement of the question for a short time on this consideration.

NOTE, No. 5.—The interest which must necessarily attach itself to the arrangement mentioned in the last two sentences of this section, would have been greatly intensified, if the names had been added of those "*most prominent masons of Ontario*," who could thus barter the Grand Mastership for the purpose of prolonging the existence of this Grand Lodge for the short space of even one other year. Had such an arrangement been made, it would in my judgment, have been most discreditable to both parties concerned.

6.—That, during the ensuing year, neither the Grand Lodge of Canada nor the Grand Master took any action in the matter. The Masons from Quebec, feeling that the Grand Master was charged with their interests, let the matter rest till the Meeting of the Grand Lodge of Canada in Montreal, when they expected that all would be arranged, and were fully convinced that the Masons of the Province of Ontario would be then ready to arrange an amicable separation of the Grand Lodge of Canada, its properties and funds, between the Freemasons of Quebec and Ontario; but, on the first day of the Session of Grand Lodge, they were astonished and surprised to find that the Grand Master refused even to allow the matter to be brought forward and discussed. That if it had not been from the fact that the Grand Lodge met in Montreal at the request of the Masons from the Province of Quebec, and were then the guests of the Montreal Brethren, the representatives from Quebec would have taken immediate action, but it was deemed best, and in a true masonic spirit, not to interfere with the proceedings of Grand Lodge, but to meet together after the communication had concluded its labors, and decide what course would be then best to pursue.

NOTE, No. 6.—Referring to the second sentence of this section, it will be sufficient to observe, that on the occasion alluded to, the question was incidentally brought before Grand Lodge, in a discussion originated by a most distinguished brother, whose views are not in unison with the

authors of the document now under review; and I gave it as my opinion then, that it was not competent for any delegate to Grand Lodge, of his own mere motion, to bring forward a resolution either to dismember the Grand Lodge or to extend its jurisdiction. I adhere to that opinion still.

7.—That as soon as possible a Meeting of the Officers of the different Lodges was called, and a Committee named to carry out the resolution of the Meeting, that immediate action be taken by the Masons of Quebec to assert their rights. Before this Committee had decided on the action they would advise, it was reported to them that the Lodges forming the Provincial Grand Lodge, under R. E. in Quebec, had decided to immediately form themselves into a Grand Lodge of Quebec. From further information the Committee were assured that such was the case, and deputations from the Committee and the Provincial Grand Lodge met for consultation, and the Committee being fully convinced from the result of this Meeting, that the Lodges forming the Provincial Grand Lodge of Quebec, R. E., were decided to take immediate action, it was resolved to issue a joint invitation to all Lodges in the Province of Quebec, to meet in the City of Montreal, and discuss the question at issue.

The following invitation was then sent to all the Lodges in the Province of Quebec:—

[CIRCULAR.]

To the Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, Officers, and other Brethren of the several Lodges of A. F. & A. M. in the Province of Quebec.

BRETHREN,—At a large and influential Meeting of Brethren hailing from different Grand Lodge jurisdictions,—held in the City of Montreal, on the 12th day of August, ult., and adjourned to and held at the same place on the 24th day of September, it was, after mature deliberation, unanimously resolved, that a circular be forwarded to all the Lodges in this Province, requesting them to be duly represented at a Convention to be held in the “British Masonic Chambers,” in the City of Montreal, on Wednesday, the 20th day of October, at seven o’clock, P. M., for the purpose of taking into consideration the present state of Freemasonry in this Province, and to proceed, if so decided, to the formation of a Grand Lodge for the Province of Quebec.

Therefore we, the undersigned, Freemasons in good standing, having been deputed by said Meeting, do hereby request all the Lodges in this Province to be duly and constitutionally represented at the Convention aforesaid, if practicable, by all their Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens, for the important object above mentioned.

(Signed.) J. H. GRAHAM, LL. D., P. D. D. G. M., E. T. D.
 J. H. ISAACSON, P. D. D. G. M., M. D.
 G. H. BORLASE, P. D. D. G. M., E. T. D.
 ALEX. MURRAY, P. D. D. G. M., M. D.
 THOS. MILTON, P. M., St. Lawrence Lodge, 640 E. R.
 THOS. WOOD, M. L. C., P. M., Prevost Lodge, 1 C. R.
 EDSON KEMP, W. M., Prevost Lodge, 1 C. R.
 M. R. MEIGS, P. M., Stanbridge Lodge, 117 C. R.
 C. A. RICE, W. M., Stanbridge Lodge, 117 C. R.
 J. S. BOWEN, P. M., St. Andrew’s Lodge, 356 R. S.
 H. P. LEGGATT, P. M., St. John’s Lodge, 182 E. R.
 GEORGE VEASEY, Treas., St. John’s Lodge, 182 E. R.
 H. J. PRATTEN, P. M., St. Andrew’s Lodge, 356 R. S.
 J. P. PEAVEY, P. M., Kilwinning Lodge, 124 C. R.
 CHAS. STORER, W. M., Mount Royal Lodge, 202 C. R.
 H. M. ALEXANDER, W. M., Royal Albert Lodge, 167 C. R.
 W. B. COLBY, P. M., Golden Rule Lodge, 12 C. R.

MONTREAL, September 30th, 1869.

NOTE, No. 7.—The statements contained in the first paragraph of this section are open to grave doubt, from the fact that at the time referred to, there were only two lodges (the Albion and St. John’s) working under the G. L. of England in Quebec, the charter of the third (the Alma) having been surrendered about a year ago, consequently *no Grand*

Lodge could possibly have been formed by the remaining two, nor could a Provincial Grand Lodge even exist with less than three. It is also a fact that only one of these two Lodges had given in its adhesion to the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, and even against that, a protest was lodged by one or more of its loyal members.

8.—That when the action of the Committee was reported to the Meeting of Officers of Lodges, the Meeting approved of that action; but being desirous of arranging matters in a proper Masonic manner, and having in view the assurance of G. Master Wilson given them in 1867, they appointed a deputation, consisting of W. Past Master Milton, of St. Lawrence Lodge, R. of England, and R. W. Bros. Isaacson, Murray and Graham, P. D. D. G. M's., to wait on the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and acquaint him with what had been done, and to ask his assistance and that of the Grand Lodge of Canada in arranging matters amicably with the Masons of Ontario, and further to request him to call a Meeting of the Grand Lodge of Canada, for the consideration of the position. The deputation reported that they had done their duty, but that the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, much to their surprise, refused to recognize the position of affairs, and refused to report the matter to the Grand Lodge of Canada, in communication; but, at their urgent request, he consented to give them an answer in a few days. The answer came in the form of a summons to appear before him and shew cause why they should not be suspended for violating their obligation as masons.

In the interim, the circular had been issued to all the Lodges, and the Lodges proceeded to appoint delegates to the Convention. On the second Thursday in October, at the meeting at Zetland Lodge, Montreal, (the W. M. of which Lodge was absent in the Southern States by reason of ill health,) the D. D. G. M. for the Montreal District (R. W. Bro. Gutman,) assumed the chair of the Lodge, and refused to allow the Past Master to take the chair. When the circular came up for consideration, he refused to allow it to be read, and presented an edict from the Grand Master on the subject, and on the Past Master of the Lodge protesting against the receipt of the edict as it had not the seal of the Grand Lodge attached, he, without any action or resolution of the Lodge, and without even asking the opinion of the Members of the Lodge on the subject before them, assumed the power to suspend the Lodge, and took possession of the warrant of the Lodge, and took it away with him.

NOTE, No. 8.—The want of knowledge displayed by the author of this section, in regard to the powers and prerogatives of a District Deputy Grand Master, is truly lamentable; even the constitutional provisions respecting that officer seem to have been wholly unknown or entirely overlooked.

9.—That this Edict of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, read at Zetland Lodge, threatened with suspension any Mason attending the Convention called for the 20th October.

NOTE, No. 9.—Grand Lodge will have noticed that this statement is made without the slightest foundation. The Edict makes no allusion whatever to suspension, and contains no threats of any kind.

10.—That on the 20th October, at the British Masonic Chambers, Montreal, the Convention of Lodges was held. Twenty-one Lodges out of the thirty-seven Lodges, of all jurisdictions, existing in the Province of Quebec, were represented by delegates at that Convention, and then and there acting under precedent established, Masonic Law, and the unanimous verdict of all living authorities who had been consulted on the subject, and whose views were placed before the Convention, the Grand Lodge of Quebec was duly constituted, and its officers invested and installed.

The subscribers have deemed it best on their own responsibility, and without the advice or influence of others, to place these facts before the F. & A. M. of the Province of Ontario without comment, further than to say that they consider the suspension of Lodges and Masons, for the action they have taken in this matter, as unwarranted,

illegal, and unmasonic. And they are fully convinced that the Masons of Ontario will at once, and without delay, take such action as will tend to an amicable settlement of the present unfortunate state of affairs, as it is for the interest of the craft that the Masons of Ontario and Quebec should work together in peace and harmony.

The different Lodges which have met since the formation of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, have in every instance confirmed the action of their delegates, and the subscribers beg to assure the Masons of Ontario, to a large number of whom they are personally known, that the Masons of the Province of Quebec are unanimous (with a few exceptions) in their approval of the action of the Convention which formed the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

(Signed)

JNO. HELDER ISAACSON, P.D.D.G.M., Past Master Zetland Lodge.
 JOHN RENSHAW, P.G.J.W., Past Master Montreal Kilwinning Lodge.
 ALEX. MURRAY, P.D.D.G.M., Past Master Victoria Lodge.
 FRANK EDGAR, D.D.G.M., Royal Albert Lodge.
 HENRY J. GEAR, Worshipful Master Victoria Lodge.
 JOHN P. PEAVEY, Worshipful Master Montreal Kilwinning Lodge.
 HENRY M. ALEXANDER, W. Master Royal Albert Lodge.
 CHARLES STORER, W. Master Mount Royal Lodge.
 MATTHEW DOYLE, Senior Warden Zetland Lodge.
 JOHN S. BARRIE, Senior Warden Montreal Kilwinning Lodge.
 WILLIAM MILLAR, Senior Warden Royal Albert Lodge.
 J. THOMPSON McMINN, Senior Warden Victoria Lodge.
 HENRY McVITTIE, Junior Warden Zetland Lodge.
 JAMES GIBSON, Junior Warden Montreal Kilwinning Lodge.
 J. JOSEPH BERNARD, Junior Warden Royal Albert Lodge.
 ALEXANDER WATSON, Junior Warden Mount Royal Lodge.

NOTE, No. 10.—Regarding the two concluding paragraphs, it need only be observed, that if it be desirable, as it most unquestionably is, “that the Masons of Ontario and Quebec should work together in peace and harmony,” these Brethren have adopted a most singular method of manifesting their attachment to, and affection for their Ontario Brethren, by rudely, rashly, and recklessly attempting to sever the Grand Lodge of Canada, in which both are united, and which has proved of such incalculable benefit to the Fraternity in both Provinces. Respecting the averments of the last sentence of this most impotent production, Grand Lodge will have already perceived that several Lodges named in a preceding portion of this address, have *not* “confirmed,” but on the contrary have repudiated “the action of their delegates,” and that several others also named have taken the necessary steps to maintain their allegiance to this Grand Lodge.

Having thus placed before you such facts as appeared to me to be necessary to a clear understanding of the true position of affairs, it yet remains for me to submit as briefly as possible the views I entertain, after most anxious and careful consideration, in reference to the legality or expediency of the recent secession. When the Confederation Act came into operation in 1867, a very general feeling prevailed among the fraternity within this jurisdiction, that the political changes then made, would to a greater or less degree affect our position as a Grand Lodge, and that a corresponding change would be necessary to adapt ourselves to the new state of affairs. This feeling gave rise to the discussion at Kingston, which has already been sufficiently alluded to. Many brethren, who, at that time, held the opinion that we ought to make some change, were yet unable to adduce reasons sufficient to satisfy their own minds, on what ground such changes were rendered necessary. There were no precedents, so far as known, either in the Old World or on this Continent, and thus the solution of the problem was rendered

much more difficult than it otherwise would have been. Since that period, it is within my knowledge, that some brethren of eminence who then entertained such views as those above indicated, have, on mature reflection and a closer study of the case, been led to the conclusion that the political changes which took place in connection with the Confederation scheme, did not, in any manner or degree, alter or affect the status or position of the Grand Lodge of Canada. The name may be anomalous,—(though there are good and sufficient reasons why even this should not be changed)—the jurisdiction and authority remain precisely as before. That this must be so, will be manifest when we consider the self-evident truth, that an Act of Parliament can neither create nor destroy a Grand Lodge of Free Masons. If this be correct, and I maintain it is, then it follows as a natural consequence, that the Confederation Act, passed by the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, did not, in the most remote degree, interfere with the standing, position or operations of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and the same may be said respecting other organizations existing in this country, apart from and wholly independent of Governmental support or control. The Canada Presbyterian Church, for instance, is still the Canada Presbyterian Church, notwithstanding that the territory, within which its operations are carried on, is now known as Ontario and Quebec, instead of as formerly Upper and Lower Canada. The Canada Wesleyan Methodist Conference is another case in point, and many of others could be added.

I am well aware that it is held as a general principle, by eminent authorities on this continent, that Masonic boundaries should be coterminous with political boundaries. This has been the rule in the establishment of Grand Lodges in the United States. But the United States furnishes no parallel to the case under consideration, and therefore comparison is entirely out of the question. The arguments which would be applicable to a number of separate, independent, and sovereign States, claiming to exercise exclusive legislative authority and supreme governmental control in all matters, except such as they themselves reserve and depute to the general or United States Government, lose all their point and efficacy when applied to our subordinate Colonial or Provincial condition, where all the power is vested in the General or Dominion Government and Parliament—where only local matters (or such as are in the U. S. termed Municipal) are entrusted to the local governments and legislatures, the Lieut.-Governors of the various Provinces deriving their appointments from the Governor General of the Dominion. In our case, which would be the political boundary to which masonic government would require to conform? The Dominion or the Provincial? If the former, we possess not the power, as there are two other Grand Lodges established within the Dominion, whose existence could not be ignored, and whose co-operation we could not at present expect to obtain; if the latter, then every new division of territory, or change of name which might take place in either of the Provinces, would necessitate similar changes in the jurisdiction and names of the respective Grand Lodges. Would this be wise? Would it be expedient? Would it be common sense? Surely there are few to be found prepared to answer in the affirmative.

I can easily understand, that in the organization of a Grand Lodge for a particular Kingdom, State or Territory, it is well to conform to the name of the Kingdom, State or Territory over which that Grand

Lodge intends to exercise masonic jurisdiction and authority, but I most respectfully submit, that after a Grand Lodge is once established and recognized, its existence, jurisdiction and authority, can neither be destroyed, altered, or in any degree affected by either political or governmental action.

Entertaining these views regarding our position, I can see no ground for the opinion put forward by some, that the Province of Quebec is "vacant" or "unoccupied territory." That it was *occupied* from 1855 until Confederation took place, is admitted on all sides, how then can it be said to be *unoccupied* now? Has any one been able to demonstrate why it has become to be unoccupied *since*, when it is acknowledged that it was occupied *before* Confederation? If the Grand Lodge of Canada existed in and exercised authority over the Province of Quebec, as well as Ontario, *previous to Confederation*, by what process of reasoning can it be made to appear that she only exists in and exercises authority over *one* of these Provinces *SUBSEQUENTLY* to that event? When, and to whose care has she confided the other?

Investigate this subject as carefully and closely as you may, you will, I think, be irresistibly led to this conclusion, that if the Grand Lodge of Canada exists at all, (and surely no one will deny that) its existence, jurisdiction and authority extends now over every foot of the territory claimed and conceded at its establishment in 1855, and it is to-day as much the Grand Lodge of the Masons of Quebec as it is of the Masons of Ontario; and that, therefore, *a second Grand Lodge cannot at present, be legally established in either one or other of these two Provinces.*

But, were it otherwise, are the circumstances surrounding the Masons residing in the Province of Quebec such as would render it expedient or desirable that the present Grand Lodge should be dismembered? Is their position such as would warrant them in breaking off from us and setting up for themselves? Look at the number of Lodges—scarcely 40—including those working under English authority, with in most cases a comparatively limited membership. The population consisting largely of French Canadians, especially in the country parts, forbids the possibility of any very great increase for some time to come. Add to this the further fact—that legislation in that Province will doubtless be made to accord, more or less, with the views of a powerful Ecclesiastical Hierarchy, which places Freemasons in the same category with all other secret societies, of whatever nature; conscientiously regarding all alike as unmixèd and unmitigated evils, which it is the duty of every good citizen to assist in exterminating. Under the [Grand Lodge of Canada, all is secure; but, if a division took place, the Masons of Quebec would not only be shorn of the strength which their connection with the Masons of Ontario affords, but they would also be deprived of the protection which they now enjoy, and which they can only hope to enjoy while continuing to be part and parcel of the Grand Lodge of Canada. It becomes, then, every prudent brother to consider well, before attempting to effect a change, which, in my humble opinion, would not only be most detrimental to, if not wholly destructive of, the best interests of Freemasonry; but would, in all probability, place in jeopardy its very existence in this Province. Yet, it is a lamentable fact, that many brethren, without the slightest consideration or forethought, should be found willing, nay, even eager, to assist in the pursuance of such a suicidal policy.

What could the brethren of Quebec gain by a separation? Strength? Influence? Power? Dignity? Greater means of usefulness, or enlarged facilities for carrying on their charitable and benevolent operations? Nay, in all these respects they would be infinitely worse off than at present. They have always had their fair share, and more than their share of Grand Lodge offices and honours. Their grievances have, in every instance, been carefully considered and properly redressed. Every application to Grand Lodge, from any quarter, for assistance from its ample Fund of Benevolence, has been responded to in the most generous and liberal spirit. The utmost deference has at all times been paid to the views of the Eastern Brethren on all questions coming before Grand Lodge; and, through the magnanimity and fraternal consideration of their Western Brethren, they have been enabled to exercise an influence in Grand Lodge affairs, entirely disproportioned to either their numbers, ability or importance. What more could they possibly desire?

My brethren, whilst on legal grounds, I have attempted to shew that the late attempt to divide this Grand Lodge cannot be maintained, I also trust that on the score of expediency, I have been able to demonstrate to you that it is equally undesirable and unnecessary. In this busy, bustling, changing age, it would be well to remember often the quaint but cautionary proverb, "Let well alone."

Before concluding, it is fitting that I should gratefully acknowledge the obligations under which I am laid to M. W. Bro. Judge Wilson, P. G. M.; M. W. Bro. T. D. Harington, P. G. M.; M. W. Bro. W. B. Simpson, P. G. M.; M. W. Bro. A. Bernard, P. G. M.; R. W. Bro. Jas. Seymour, Dep. G. M.; R. W. Bro. M. Gutman, D. D. G. M., Montreal District; R. W. Bro. Alex. Walker, D. D. G. M., Quebec District: and R. W. Bro. T. B. Harris, our trusty and most efficient Grand Secretary, for the fraternal counsel and support which they extended to me, during the recent painful crisis in our masonic history.

Having now fulfilled the duty which devolved upon me, I commit this subject to your most careful consideration, praying that the Great Architect of the Universe, will guide your deliberations, and lead you to adopt such measures as will tend to promote peace and harmony, preserve the integrity, and uphold the honor and dignity of the Grand Lodge of Canada, which may God greatly prosper, and evermore perpetuate. So mote it be.

A. A. STEVENSON.

Grand Master,

Grand Lodge of Canada.

MONTREAL, December 1st, 1869.

The reading of the address was listened to with marked attention, and at its conclusion

It was moved by M. W. Bro. W. M. Wilson, seconded by M. W. Bro. T. Douglas Harington, and

RESOLVED,—That the address of the M. W. Grand Master be referred to the following Committee, to report thereon at the session of this Grand Lodge to be held on to-morrow, Thursday, at 10 o'clock, a. m., viz.: M. W. Bros. W. M. Wilson, P. G. M.; T. Douglas Harington, P. G. M.; W. B. Simpson, P. G. M.; A. Bernard, P. G. M. R. W. Bros. James Seymour, D. G. M.; Thos. B. Harris, D. Curtis, J. Milne, P. J. Brown,

M. Gutman, Thos. Matheson, Thos. White, jr., E. P. Remon, S. D. Fowler, Jno. Clarke, Rev. V. Clementi, James Bain, Rev. W. C. Clarke, Otto Klotz, R. P. Stephens, Daniel Spry, Thomas Wilkinson, A. S. Kirkpatrick, S. B. Fairbanks, J. J. Gemmill, E. Racicot, W. H. Vanvliet, and the Rev. H. Montgomery; and that all documents referring to the subject of the formation of a so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, be referred to the same Committee.

Some conversation occurred as to the propriety of adjourning until the evening before naming the Committee, in order to permit a careful examination of the names upon it; but in view of the fact that such an adjournment would probably keep Grand Lodge in session an additional day, the motion was unanimously carried; and Grand Lodge was called from labour to refreshment, to meet again the following morning at 10 o'clock.

The Committee met after dinner, and appointed R. W. Bro. Seymour chairman. An exhaustive discussion upon the whole case took place. Papers issued by the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, which could not be received in Grand Lodge, were read in the Committee and fully considered; and a series of resolutions were adopted, which will be found embodied in the report presented to Grand Lodge.

On Thursday morning at eleven o'clock, Grand Lodge resumed its sittings, permission being given by the M. W. the Grand Master to admit all Master Masons in good standing as visitors.

R. W. Bro. the Rev. Vincent Clementi presented his credentials as the accredited representative from the Grand Lodge of Chile in the Grand Lodge of Canada, which were found most satisfactory. The Revd. Brother was greeted with the usual Masonic Honors, and invited to a seat on the dais.

V. W. Bro. Thos. White, jun., in the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, R. W. Bro. Seymour, submitted the following as the report of the Committee appointed to take into consideration the subject embraced in the address of the M. W. Grand Master.

REPORT.

To the Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge of Canada :

The Committee to whom was referred the address of the M. W. the Grand Master, at the opening of this Grand Lodge, beg to report:—

That they have carefully considered the subject referred to by the M. W. the Grand Master, and while deeply regretting the circumstances which have rendered necessary the calling of this emergent communication of Grand Lodge at this unusual period of the year, they at the same time entirely concur with the Grand Master in his opinion that the events which have lately transpired in the Province of Quebec are of such a nature as to require immediate action on the part of Grand Lodge, and therefore as fully to justify the calling together of Grand Lodge.

They have read with great pain the narrative of facts connected with the organization of the so-called Grand Lodge of the Province of Quebec, so fully and clearly stated in the address; and after the most

careful consideration, they have come to the following conclusions, which they respectfully recommend for adoption by Grand Lodge.

1. That the Province of Quebec has been fully occupied, masonically, since 1855, and is still so occupied by the Grand Lodge of Canada.

2. That the Province of Quebec, being fully occupied, masonically, by the Grand Lodge of Canada, the formation of a second Grand Lodge, within such territory, is illegal and unconstitutional, so long as such occupation continues.

3. That while unanimously and emphatically condemning the action of the Brethren who have presumed to form the so-called "Grand Lodge of Quebec," within the territory masonically occupied by the Grand Lodge of Canada, this Grand Lodge at the same time expresses the hope that the seceding brethren will see the propriety of returning to their allegiance to it, and assures them that in doing so they will be received with cordiality and brotherly good will; but at the same time it deems it due to its own dignity, and its duty to the Loyal Masons and Lodges in the Province of Quebec, as well as to the Craft generally, to withhold any hope of recognition to the so-called "Grand Lodge of Quebec," and to express its opinion that on a proper presentation of the facts of the case, no recognition by other Grand Lodges in correspondence with this Grand Lodge, ought to be accorded to it.

4. That all masonic communication with the Brethren and Lodges acknowledging allegiance to the so-called "Grand Lodge of Quebec," be prohibited; and that all those who fail or neglect to comply with the provision of the previous resolution, by returning to their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Canada, within a period of three months, be summoned to appear before Grand Lodge at its next annual communication, to show cause why they should not be expelled from the privileges of Freemasonry.

5. That in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, the action taken by the M. W. the Grand Master, in the trying circumstances in which he has been placed owing to the contumacious conduct of certain Brethren in the Province of Quebec, in seceding from the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, merits the highest approbation of Grand Lodge, having been characterized by a strict regard for the Constitution of Freemasonry, and for the honour and dignity of the high position he occupies; and that all the acts, which, in the discharge of his high duties, he has done in this most painful emergency, be, and the same are hereby confirmed.

The Committee in conclusion expresses its earnest hope that the Brethren who have without due consideration, taken the unconstitutional step of organizing a Grand Lodge within masonically occupied territory, will, upon reflection, see the propriety of returning to their allegiance; and that the Grand Lodge of Canada may be permitted for many years to come, to exercise its high functions without opposition, throughout its entire territory, to the benefit of the Craft at large, and to the building up of those benign principles of brotherly love, relief and truth, which it is its high mission to promote.

Your Committee recommend that the address of the Grand Master, with this report, be printed with all convenient speed, and circulated among the members of the Craft, at least ten copies being sent to each

Lodge, and that three copies be sent to each Grand Lodge in communication with this Grand Lodge.

All which is respectfully submitted,

JAS. SEYMOUR,
Chairman.

M. W. Bro. W. M. Wilson, P. G. M., moved that the report of the committee on the M. W. Grand Master's Address, just read, be received and adopted.

In making the motion, M. W. Bro. WILSON said that he deemed it due to himself and to Grand Lodge, in view of the frequent references which had been made to his name in this unfortunate dispute, to say a few words on the motion. Looking back upon his own part in the proceedings in Grand Lodge, and the conversations to which the Act of Confederation, in its supposed relation to Freemasonry, had given rise, he had nothing to retract or be ashamed of. He questioned the wisdom or fairness of canvassing private conversations in relation to public events; and, in this case, such a course had led to very much misapprehension. At the time referred to, all their views were somewhat cloudy in relation to the effect, if any, Confederation had upon the status of Grand Lodge, and, in the freedom of conversation, many things were said, by way of suggestion, which it was most unfair to quote afterwards as deliberate and formal propositions. (Hear, Hear.) It was quite evident that the action taken at Kingston, in 1867, by Grand Lodge, and by brethren in Grand Lodge, was greatly misunderstood. The point at issue there was whether, under the political change, any change would be necessary in our masonic position; and, without due thought, an affirmative of this was too readily accepted. There were those who held that a Dominion Grand Lodge would be expedient; and against this proposal was placed that of independent Provincial Grand Lodges, in and for each of the Provinces. But both proposals were upon the assumption that some change might be necessary, and were not sustained as desirable *per se*. He had come to Grand Lodge at this time at very great inconvenience, and at some sacrifice of duty, because of the anxiety he felt lest anything should occur to mar the harmony of the Craft, and destroy the fabric which he had been somewhat instrumental in assisting to build up. He had come with three things firmly established in his mind, viz:—that the Province of Quebec had been masonically occupied since 1855; that the formation of a second Grand Lodge was illegal; and that it was the duty of Grand Lodge to sustain the Grand Master in the course he had found himself compelled to take in this emergency. (Hear, Hear.) He had been written to by a number of the brethren from Quebec, but he had steadily refused to acquiesce in the wisdom or the legality of their course. Nova Scotia had been cited as a precedent for the action of Quebec; but there was really no analogy between the cases. Nova Scotia had never been claimed as within the exclusive masonic jurisdiction of any Grand Lodge, and was, in fact, “unoccupied territory,” in the strict sense of that term, when the Grand Lodge was formed in it. It stood in precisely the same position as that occupied by Quebec before the erection of the Grand Lodge of Canada; and it was perfectly competent, at that time, for the brethren from Lower Canada, now Quebec, to have formed a Grand Lodge, had they desired to do so. They did not do so; on the contrary, with distinct political boundaries, then as much as now,

they joined in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and they could not now legally set up an independent Grand Lodge—and such a body, established in antagonism to, and in defiance of, the Grand Lodge of Canada, could not be recognized by any Grand Lodge in the world. (Hear, Hear.) He had come down with another notion, viz: that if the brethren of Quebec, with tolerable unanimity, desired to go, he would let them. He did not quite concur with some of his brethren, in whose opinions he generally had the greatest confidence, that this could not be done. Should the feeling for separation become unanimous, he could not but think that some way would be discovered by which, constitutionally, this might be done. But what did they find? No unanimity on the question. Even Lodges, which were asserted to be in accord with the new organization, had not been regularly summoned to consider the question; and the proceedings, apart from the larger question of the right to form a Grand Lodge, had been, in relation to the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, very irregular and unconstitutional. He had this morning met some of the seceding brethren, and had advised them to give up their present movement, come back to Grand Lodge, and if there were any grievances of which they had to complain, he had ventured to assure them that they would receive a respectful hearing, and the most generous consideration. (Hear, Hear.) He despaired of their adopting this course now, though he hoped they might be induced to do so before long. In the meantime, the committee had come to the only conclusion possible under the circumstances, and he had therefore great pleasure in moving the adoption of the report. (Applause.)

M. W. BRO. HARRINGTON seconded the motion. He agreed with all that his M. W. Brother Wilson had said, and he felt that the Committee had adopted the only course open to them. He had told R. W. Bro. Graham so; and he had thus far failed to hear any good argument for the attempt which had been made to set up a separate Grand Lodge. To recognize the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, would be to declare that the Grand Lodge of Canada had been an illegal organization since July, 1867. (Hear, hear.)

After some conversation it was resolved on motion of W. Bro. Jackson, seconded by W. Bro. Rev. W. C. Clarke, to consider the report, clause by clause.

The first three resolutions recommended, were then proposed separately, and were unanimously adopted.

On the fourth resolution being put,

It was moved by V. W. Bro. J. Billington, seconded by V. W. Bro. A. Diamond,

That in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, it is expedient, in order to promote the best interests of Freemasonry in Canada, that the Brethren now under suspension for forming or attempting to form a Grand Lodge of Masons for the Province of Quebec, and thereby injuriously, to a serious extent, impairing the usefulness of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in whose jurisdiction the Province of Quebec now is, be summoned to appear before this Grand Lodge, and show cause why this Grand Lodge should not place them upon their trial for violation of their obligations.

A lengthy discussion occurred on this amendment, V. W. Brothers Billington, Harding, Diamond and others, urging its adoption upon

the ground that it was due to the seceding Brethren to hear their explanations at once, and to judge of them by those explanations; that it was unfair to them, to keep them under suspension for so long a period without trial; and that Grand Lodge having been summoned to settle this difference in the Craft, should, even at the expense and inconvenience of a prolonged session, lose no time in coming face to face with those who had formed the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, and, if possible, restore harmony between the brethren of the two Provinces.

On the other hand, it was argued by V. W. Bros. White, Stephens and others that, in the present position of the dispute, it was not desirable to resort at once to formal trials. Grand Lodge had already unanimously declared the formation of the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec to be illegal, and that no hope of recognition can be held out to it. If the brethren were summoned now, but one question could be put to them, "are you a party to the formation of a Grand Lodge for Quebec;" and if the answer was in the affirmative, the offence of treason against Grand Lodge would be established, and the penalty must follow. It would be better to allow some little time to elapse. Before the next meeting of Grand Lodge, an opportunity would be afforded for reflection; it would be seen whether the movement was simply one of a few leaders, or whether it sprang from a settled conviction on the part of our brethren in Quebec generally that the interests of the Craft would be best promoted by separation; and a wiser decision could then be arrived at. On these grounds the resolution of the Committee was really the most kindly to the Quebec brethren, and ought in the interest of harmony and peace to be adopted.

A vote by ballot having been demanded, was taken, when the amendment was declared lost, YEAS 90, NAYS 330. The original motion was then put and carried on the same decision.

The fifth resolution submitted by the Committee was then put, and carried unanimously.

The motion of M. W. Bro. Wilson, for the adoption of the report as a whole, was then put, and unanimously adopted.

The formal resolutions of thanks were then proposed and carried, after which Grand Lodge was closed in AMPLE FORM, with solemn prayer, at three o'clock, P.M.

BUSINESS NOTICE.

The ONTARIO FARMER, edited by the Rev. W. F. Clarke, of Guelph, is hereafter to be published by Messrs. T. & R. White, publishers of the CRAFTSMAN, at Hamilton. Mr. Clarke was for many years the editor of the Canada Farmer, and as such is well known to the Agriculturists of Ontario. His new publication, now entering upon its second year, should receive very general support.

A correspondent of a Toronto newspaper, who has been writing letters in defence of the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, apologizes for addressing his brethren through a secular paper, on the ground that the CRAFTSMAN would not have published communications opposed to its views on this question. This is an entire mistake. We desire the fullest discussion; and are of opinion that the interests of Freemasonry will be best promoted by that discussion being confined to the Masonic Press. All we require is, that correspondents shall avoid all offensive personality in the discussion of principles.