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“Memor et Fidelis.”

VOL. I.]

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 2, 1857.

[No. 9.

PROCEEDINGS OF GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

Grand Lodge of Emergency, November 19.

THE M. W. the Grand Master summoned a Grand Lodge of Emergency on the 19th of November, to take up the business at the point at which it terminated at the Quarterly Communication in September last, and to ignore and declare null and void the proceedings of the adjourned Grand Lodge held October 1.

The Right Hon.—the Earl of Zetland, G.M., presided in person, supported by Sir Lucius Curtis, Prov. G.M. of Hampshire, as D.G.M.; R. W. Fleming, Prov. G.M. Isle of Wight; R. J. Bagshaw, Prov. G.M. of Essex; C. P. Cooper, Prov. G.M. of Kent; Dr. Kent, Prov. G.M. of South Australia; T. H. Hall, Prov. G.M. of Cambridge; S. Rawson, Prov. G.M. of China; Colonel Burlton, Prov. G.M. of Bengal; Lord Goderich, S.G.W.; Fredrick Dundas, as J.G.W.; Cox and Moore, G. Chaps.; Henderson, P. G. Reg.; Dolne, G. Reg.; J. Havers, P.G.S.D.; J. Hervey, P.G.S.D.; H. K. G. Potter, P.G.S.D.; H. Faudel, P.G.S.D.; J. Parkinson, P.G.S.D.; F. White, P.G.S.D.; A. A. Le Veau, P.G.S.B.; R. J. Spies, P.G.S.B.; T. Masson, P.G.S.B.; J. Biggs, P.G.S.B.; H. Parker, P.G.S.B.; T. B. King, P.G.S.B.; H. L. Crohn, Sec. for German Correspondence; White and Farnfield, G. Seces; R. W. Jennings, G. Dir. of Cer.; W. Brething, P.G. Pairs.

The Grand Lodge having been opened in due form.

The Grand Secretary read the circular issued by the M.W. the Grand Master calling the Grand Lodge of Emergency.

THE RIGHT TO ADJOURN

The Grand Master said: “Brethren, I think it due to Grand Lodge that I should now state my reasons more immediately for calling this Grand Lodge, and I trust I shall be able to show you, in connection with those reasons, that I have taken this step simply, because, in my opinion, it was a step necessary to the faithful discharge of my duty. At the September Quarterly Communication the Grand Lodge passed a resolution that the Grand Lodge should adjourn to the 1st of October, and now I have to give my most decided opinion that such an adjournment was illegal (hear, hear), and that whatever proceedings took place at such adjourned meeting are null and void. (Hear.) Brethren, I will now state my reasons for coming to this decision. By the Book of

Constitutions, page 19, article 7. the law states that there shall be ‘four Quarterly Communications in each year, viz, on the first Wednesday in the months of March, June, September, and December, at which none shall be present but the proper members, without permission of the Grand Master. No visitor shall speak to any question without leave of the Grand Master, nor shall he, on any occasion, be permitted to vote.’ But there is not one word in the Book of Constitutions which provides, or gives power to G. Lodge, *propria motu*, to adjourn. The Book of Constitutions however, does provide for Grand Lodges of Emergency. and in page 21 article 10, you will find, ‘the Grand Master, in his absence, the pro Grand Master, in his absence, the Dep. G. Master, or, in his absence, the Grand Wardens, may summon and hold Grand Lodges of Emergency, whenever the good of the Craft shall in their opinion, require it; the particular reason for convening such Lodge of Emergency shall be expressed in the summons, and no other business shall be entered upon at that meeting.’ Now Brethren, you will observe by that law that special instructions are given as to the mode of holding the Grand Lodges of Emergency, but not a word is said about the power of adjourning. I may go farther and say that Private Lodges are governed by much the same laws as Grand Lodges, and that no meeting of a Private Lodge can be adjourned; but the Master of a Private Lodge may, and does convene Lodges of Emergency. We have heard it said that there were before Grand Lodge, questions of the greatest importance, which demanded an adjournment of Grand Lodge, but I have looked carefully through the business of that adjourned Grand Lodge, and find no one of the questions analogous to the business of the last Quarterly Communication. I think it due to the Grand Lodge that I should explain what I consider to be the real state of the case. In June, 1853, the Grand Master summoned a Grand Lodge of Emergency, owing to a pressure of business, and that Special Grand Lodge was called by command of the Grand Master. That is a course which differs entirely from the course pursued in September last, because the Grand Master was not in the chair, but Grand Lodge simply passed a resolution to adjourn the meeting, which they had no power, to do. In 1854 (April 16) the summons states, that that being the day of humiliation, the grand festival cannot be held, and that the Grand Master had appointed the 29th of that month, and required the Brethren to meet on the 20th in order to adjourn till the 29th of the same month. This adjournment was moved and seconded, and done by command by the G. Master entirely. The Gr. Master had previously fixed the

day to which the adjournment should be made, and it was adjourned in consequence of his command. I may state farther, that, looking over the minutes of Grand Lodge, it appears to me that ‘adjourn’ is a term when used with respect to Grand Lodge the same as when used in the House of Commons. In that House the question is, ‘that the House do now adjourn,’ which means to the next legal day of meeting, and it is adjourned accordingly to the next day appointed by law for it to meet, and so when Grand Lodge adjourns, it means that it adjourns till the next Quarterly Communication. I am prepared to stand by my own decision on this point,—that when Grand Lodge adjourns it adjourns to the next legal day, unless a Grand Lodge of Emergency be called by the Grand Master for special business, and on which occasion no other business can be done except such business as appears upon the circular convening that Grand Lodge of Emergency. I have taken some pains to ascertain the law of the case, and I find that in my view of the law of the case I am supported by the opinions of the present G. Registrar, the Past Grand Registrar, and the Grand Registrar before him (hear, hear); in fact, I have all the authorities with me. I think, therefore, in accordance with the obligations which I have taken an oath to perform,—viz, to adhere to the ancient usages of the Craft, and maintain the law as, in my opinion, it stands, I can only come to the painful resolution to determine that the meeting of certain members of Grand Lodge, held on the 1st of October, was an illegal meeting, and that all the proceedings there were null and void; and I now call upon the Grand Secretary to take up the business of this evening at the point at which it had arrived when the Grand Lodge closed at its Quarterly Communication in September.” (Applause.)

Bro. Hearn: “Most Worshipful Grand Master, with every deference—”

The Grand Master: “I shall not allow the point to be argued.”

The Grand Secretary then read the minutes of proceedings and the Report of the Colonial Committee.

THE COLONIAL COMMITTEE

Bro. Colonel Burlton moved that this report be adopted, and spoke as follows:—“I regret that this duty should not have fallen upon some one more capable of doing justice to it than I am; but though I may be somewhat plain in my speech, I hope you will excuse me and allow me to speak with that frankness which becomes one gentleman towards another. I shall say nothing disrespectful to you, Most Worshipful Sir, or to the high situation which you hold. I shall say nothing to dis-

turb the harmony of this meeting, or of the Craft, which I deeply regret to say has been seriously disturbed of late. In rising to propose the adoption of this report, I am bound to do so because your lordship has summoned us here to do it, and it seems to me a question which has already been decided in a regular Grand Lodge (applause), and I do hope your lordship will allow me temperately to argue this point." (Hear, hear.)

The Grand Master: "I cannot allow you to do so, and I do hope that Grand Lodge will support me in endeavouring to do my duty in expounding the law to the best of my ability, and I shall not submit, after so expounding the law, to have my decision controverted on the present occasion. I must beg the worthy Brother therefore to confine himself to the question of the report, which is the only question before Grand Lodge, and not to the law which I have laid down. (Applause.)"

Bro. Burlington: "The question is, who has the power to make the laws of Freemasonry? (Hear, hear, and loud applause.) It is distinctly stated that Grand Lodge alone has the inherent power of enacting laws. You will allow me to read a clause."

Bro. Dobie: "Most Worshipful Sir, I rise to order!"

Bro. Burlington read from the Book of Constitutions: "The G. Lodge alone has the power inherent of enacting laws and regulations for the government of the Craft, and of altering, repealing, and abrogating them, always taking care that the ancient landmarks of the Order be preserved. The Grand Lodge has also the power of investigating, regulating, and deciding all matters relative to the Craft or to particular Lodges, or to individual Brothers, which it may exercise either of itself or by such delegated authority as, in its wisdom and discretion, it may appoint; but in the Grand Lodge alone resides the power of creating Lodges and expelling Brethren from the Craft, a power which it does not delegate to any subordinate authority in England." I respectfully submit that the Grand Lodge alone has the power to do all this, and enact these laws and regulations for the government of the whole Craft. It is not, therefore, unreasonable for us to presume that we have the power of adjourning from one day to the other. There is no single bye-law which says that Grand Lodge has not such power, and under these circumstances I contend that it has the power—(applause)—and I think, Most Worshipful Sir—"

Bro. Havers: "I rise to order." (Hisses.)

The Grand Master gave the Brother permission to speak, and Bro. Havers proceeded. "Brethren, I could hardly imagine that you could have stopped me in this way. (Laughter.) I have but one object in view, and so long as the Grand Master rules that I am in order I shall go on—(oh, and hear, hear)—and I have now to submit to your lordship, that the Brother who has just spoken was out of order, because you have justly ruled that you have power to state what is the law, and that you will not allow your decision to be discussed." (Question.)

The Grand Master: "The Brother was speaking in order with my permission, and I hope the Brethren will know themselves better than to interrupt with cries of 'Question, question,' under such circumstances." (Applause and laughter.)

Bro. Havers then continued: "No one," he said, "can doubt that Grand Lodge has the power inherent. (Loud cries of 'Question, question,' and hisses.) Why, surely, we are not to submit here to tyranny like this, which is greater than has ever been heard of." (Laughter.)

Bro. Binckes: "I rise to order." (Applause.)

Bro. Havers: "Grand Lodge, I was going to say has the power to alter its laws, but you must make this new law first, and till it is so made you must abide by the laws which are made."

Bro. Burlington again attempted to address the Brethren, but was stopped by

The Grand Master, who said: "I am bound by my solemn obligation to maintain the laws and usages of the Craft. There is only one interpretation of that oath, I must maintain those laws and usages to the best of my knowledge and ability, and enforce them according to my own interpretation of them. (Oh, oh!) Brethren may say 'Oh,

oh!' but so long as I occupy this chair I shall maintain order in Grand Lodge. (Applause.) I shall interpret the law to the best of my ability. I assert, then, on my own responsibility, that the Wor. Bro. Burlington was following out a line of argument which is disorderly, and which he is not competent to pursue, I therefore call upon him to refrain." (Applause.)

Bro. Burlington: "It is all very well for your lordship to act according to your own understanding, but there are other persons here who must be allowed to interpret them according to the best of their judgment [cheers], and—"

The Grand Master: "If the Worshipful Bro. proceeds in this strain, I shall have to request him to leave Grand Lodge." [Applause.]

Bro. Burlington: "Then I will only make one more remark, and that is, we find, in page 31, Article 10: 'If the Grand Master shall abuse his power—'"

The boisterous applause which interrupted this passage was such that it prevented Bro. Burlington from continuing. There were however loud and continued cries of "Read! read!" and the result was that the Grand Master himself read the clause, which was as follows:

"If the Grand Master should abuse his power, and render himself unworthy of the obedience of the Lodges, he shall be subjected to some new regulation, to be dictated by the occasion; because, hitherto, the ancient Fraternity have had no reason to provide for an event which they have presumed would never happen." "By that law," concluded the Grand Master "I am perfectly willing to abide." [Loud applause.]

Bro. Burlington then brought forward his motion for the adoption of the report, but said that he did so under protest, and only to prevent any further delay in so important a matter [cheers], while doing so, he entered his solemn protest because he would maintain that the business had been settled already. [Cheers.] But because he wished to do justice to the Canadian Brethren, he would then move that the report be received and adopted. Much he might have said on that subject, in temperate terms, such as one Freemason has a right to address to another, but when knocked down by the gavel, as he had been, he could do no more in support of his motion than to express his dissatisfaction generally with the result of the mismanagement, so far as the colonial affairs of the Craft were concerned. He concluded by formally proposing his motion, which was seconded by Bro. Kent late Prov. G.M. for Australia.

Bro. Dobie suggested that the clauses should be put *seriatim*, which was agreed to.

On Clause 1,

Bro. Binckes asked permission to refer to one or two other parts of the Books of Constitutions.

The Grand Master said that he would not allow it.

Bro. Binckes said, that then he would have to move an amendment for the purpose of calling attention to the decision which his lordship had unfortunately given. This amendment was, "That this Grand Lodge having already decided, in a Grand Lodge legally constituted [oh, oh! and loud cheers], the question which is now before them, it cannot be settled in Grand Lodge twice. [Protracted cheering.] He thought it was very inexpedient to proceed further with this motion, because Clause 13 said 'All powers, authorities, rules, and regulations, for the government of the Grand Lodge, or Provincial Grand Lodges, or private Lodges, or Boards, or Committees respectively, during times of public business, or meetings, or proceedings, shall be used, and exercised, and enforced respectively by the officers or members by any law or constitution authorized to preside or act in the absence of the Grand Master, or any superior officer or member in such Lodges, Boards, or Committees, or in the general government of the Craft, as fully to all intents and purposes as if such substitute, officers, or members were specified in every law or constitution in which any powers or authorities are given, or rules or regulations prescribed for the principals, unless special provision is made to the contrary.'"

Bro. Dobie called Bro. Binckes's attention to the fact, that the Grand Master had decided that they should not raise points of discussion on the Book of Constitutions, but go on with the report. [Hear, hear.]

Bro. Binckes contended that the Brethren which declared the last Quarterly Communication adjourned till October meeting duly opened for the purposes of Masonry, were the Grand Master of Masons *pro hac vice*, and had every authority for what they did.

The Grand Master said, that was arguing against his decision, and once more he must say he would not allow it.

Bro. Binckes: "This is not the way to promote the interests of Masonry: while there is this difference of opinion amongst us, the matter should be allowed to be argued." [Applause.]

The Grand Master: "Whatever your own opinion may be, I hope you will give me credit for acting to the best of my power in the manner which I believe it to be my duty to act. I have expounded the law, and I will not allow that exposition to be controverted in this way."

Bro. Binckes: "Will your lordship allow me to ask you a question? [Loud cries of 'Yes, yes!' and 'No, no!'] It would be disrespectful in me, after what your lordship has said, to press this matter any further. [Applause.] I shall now simply move this amendment: 'That this motion having been already discussed and decided upon by a legally constituted Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge deems it inexpedient and unnecessary to reopen the question or further to consider thereon.'" [Loud cheers.]

The Rev. Bro. Lyall seconded the motion.

Bro. Havers suggested to his lordship that he could not put such a motion as that.

The Grand Master: "I shall certainly refuse to put the amendment."

The Rev. Bro. Portal, whose rising was greeted with loud and hearty applause, spoke as follows: "It is with extreme pain and regret that I find myself compelled to move a separate amendment on the motion which has just been made by the W. Bro. Burlington, and in doing so I wish to pay the most implicit obedience to the Grand Master sitting in his chair, though for the present he has refused to allow us to quote and consider our own laws; I, therefore, shall not quote from them. His lordship has refused to allow us to pass an opinion as to the extent of our own jurisdiction, and I shall, therefore, not enter into that subject. There is an old adage which informs us that 'a child may lead a horse to water, but a hundred men cannot make him drink.' [Loud cheers, and laughter.] I contend that if we are asked to stultify ourselves in this manner, that till we have considered this question, we ought to declare that we will not discuss any other. [Loud cheers.] Therefore, while I submit to the Grand Master in the chair, as a member of Grand Lodge, I feel bound to maintain its dignity: and I therefore do move 'That this Grand Lodge declines to proceed to any other business till it has been allowed to decide on its inherent authority and prerogative.'" [Loud applause.]

Bro. Hearn seconded the amendment.

Bro. Roxburgh rose to move another amendment.

Bro. Warren said an amendment could not be put upon an amendment, till the first amendment was disposed of.

Bro. Roxburgh: "It has been stated by the Rev. Bro. Portal, that the Grand Master has refused to permit Grand Lodge to consider its own constitutions. [Hear, hear.] That I deny. [Applause.] Masonry is bound by its laws, and there is but one constitutional method of amending those laws; and if the worthy Brother is desirous of amending them, he can do so in the proper way, viz., by giving a substantive notice of motion, which would then be considered by the Grand Lodge. So long as the Worshipful Master occupies that chair, he is bound to maintain those laws, and in the exposition of them he has given his own notion in accordance with his views of his obligation, in which I concur. He is bound to put his own construction upon them, and to administer them to the best of his belief. That there are Brethren who

may wish to make alterations in those laws I can readily conceive, but I do ask the Grand Lodge to support its own dignity, and not to stultify itself by admitting, by a side wind, alterations in its constitutions. If alterations are to be made, let them be made legally and manfully. [Cheers.] The Rev. Brother said the Grand Master refused to let us discuss our own jurisdiction. I am surprised at such an observation coming from such a quarter. The Grand Master has laid down what he considers the existing state of the law, and the Grand Lodge has the power to alter that law, but such alteration must be made regularly appointed manner. You cannot do it by a side wind. [Hear.] I hope, for the honour of the chair and credit of Masonry, that the Brethren will support the chair. The law laid down by the chair must be respected, however erroneous it may be. To our Grand Master we have confined our sovereignty; he is the king of the Craft, and he cannot put such an amendment as Bro. Portal's.

Bro. Binckes rose to order, on the ground that the Grand Master was allowing that very discussion on the part of those who thought with him, which he denied to those who entertained opposite views. [Loud cheering.]

Bro. Roxburgh: "It is very evident that the Brother who last spoke did not hear what it was I said [laughter]; I was not arguing the propriety of the decision at which the Grand Master has arrived. [Loud cries of 'Question, question.'] I am speaking to the question, and I say, so long as the Grand Master is in the chair, his decision, whether right or wrong, must be respected. [Hear, hear.] It should not be controverted by a motion like this, which would reverse the decision."

Bro. Harrison [P.M. of the Royal York]: "In September last your lordship, not being present, was represented by a Deputy and—"

Grand Master: "Order, Brother." [Laughter.]

Bro. Harrison: "Most Worshipful Sir, you are proceeding contrary to the Book of Constitutions." [Loud cheers, and laughter.]

The Grand Master then read the amendment of Bro. Portal.

Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon: "Most Worshipful Sir, before you put the amendment, I should be glad to have an opportunity of saying a few words upon it."

The Grand Master: "You shall speak after I have read the amendment."

The Grand Master then read the amendment, and decided that it was to call in question his decision and that therefore he would not put it.

Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon: "In accordance with the permission of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, I shall make one or two observations. You, Sir, this evening, have said something of the House of Commons, and you have referred to some of our customs as corresponding with theirs; but whenever the government or any private individual is called in question for any act or policy, so far from stopping the discussion, the government or individual is the first to invite it. [Loud Applause.] Allow me to say, that it does come with an ill grace.—I speak with the deepest respect, my lord, of you personally, and of your office; but I must speak with that freedom which characterizes gentlemen and Freemasons; and I now must say, that it does come with an ill grace from the dais, when we consider the circumstances of the case. Grand Lodge was adjourned in September without a word of opposition from those who were in authority upon that occasion; and it was opened upon that adjournment on the 1st of October with the sanction of those who were then in authority, having been summoned together by official circulars from the Gr. Secretary's office." [Loud Applause.]

The Grand Master: "I must call my noble friend and Brother to order, because he is now entering upon a course of argument which I have decided to be disorderly."

The Earl of Carnarvon: "I see how difficult a course they have to pursue who do not bask in the smiles of your favour and approval [loud cheers]; but, Sir, whether that right do exist, or

whether it do not exist, to which I lay claim—I will not say it does exist under the circumstances of the case—but whether it does or does not exist, we claim it as an inherent right. [Loud cries of 'Question, question.'] Whether right or wrong, I say that there is an inherent right in every representative assembly, and we claim it because Grand Lodge should be inherently supreme; and we demand the acknowledgement of that supremacy as our safeguard against intrigue, and our guarantee for the preservation of our liberties and our—" [The remainder of the sentence was drowned in applause and cries of "Order, order."]

Bro. H. G. Warren: "We have nothing before us but the motion of our worthy Bro. Col. Burlington, on which I shall move an amendment, and I shall do so in a few words. I disagree with the noble lord in his application of the practice of the House of Commons to the practice of Grand Lodge; and I know something of the House of Commons from my experience in the gallery. I feel strongly on this subject; as we have already decided the question which is now before us, I think it is only a waste of time to go over the ground again, and I shall therefore now move that this Grand Lodge be closed." [Loud cheers, laughter, and cries of "Oh, oh!" from the dais.]

Bro. Binckes seconded the motion amidst loud cheers and uproarious demonstrations of angry feeling, on the dais.

The Grand Master: "I must appeal to the Grand Lodge to support me. [Applause.] I do trust the Grand Lodge is not becoming a mere debating club. I do hope that resolutions will not be brought forward which have neither sense nor meaning; such as the proposition that the Grand Lodge be now closed. [Hear, hear.] Why the fact is, the Grand Lodge cannot be closed except by the Grand Master. I am sorry to have heard the observations which have fallen from my noble friend and Brother who has just addressed Grand Lodge respecting his not finding favour with the Grand Master. I can assure my noble friend and Brother that there is no member of Grand Lodge for whom I entertain a higher respect. [Cheers.] I have known him from his infancy, and I have been intimate with his family all my life, and not one word would I say to him which would give him offence. But I must administer the law, according to the oath I have taken, to the best of my judgment and ability, and I regret that such remarks should have fallen from the noble lord. I was for twenty-five years a member of the House of Commons, and therefore I can neither bow to the opinion of the noble lord nor to that of the worthy gentleman who says he has occupied a place in the gallery." [Laughter.]

Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon said: "Most worshipful Sir, I beg to disclaim on my part all intentional discourtesy. You have said that you have a duty to perform to the best of your ability; and believe me that I should not have expressed the views to which I have given utterance upon the present occasion, had I not felt that if I did not express my opinion I should be a traitor to the cause I have at heart."

Bro. Purton Cooper wished to bring the unhappy discussions to a close, he said, but his observations were received with cries of "Question" and a variety of demonstrations of impatience. "The Brethren," he said, "must have heard with delight and satisfaction the interchange of friendly sentiments between the Grand Master and the Earl of Carnarvon. [Hear, hear.] I have no intention to take up your time, but you will allow me, perhaps, to say that I also have very strong opinions on this question of the power of adjournment, and"—

Bro. Portal: "I rise to order." [Hear, hear, and laughter.]

Bro. Purton Cooper: "My opinion on the subject is"—[Order, order.]

Bro. Bagshaw: "There are many Brethren with strong opinions who feel deeply on this subject, and would like to have it decided by Grand Lodge."

A Brother whose name we could not learn, but who was said to be a Prov. Gr. Officer for Hampshire, said he wished to make a few observations;

and as he considered that the Grand Master had decided quite right, he could not be regarded as rising with any vexatious motive. He thought it would be impossible for the Grand Lodge to proceed with the resolution which was before it till the point as to the power of adjournment was decided.

The Brother was about to give his reasons for so thinking, when he was called to order by the Grand Master, who begged the Brethren to proceed to the business of the evening. The Brother said it was very desirable that Grand Lodge should meet to make an alteration in its law before proceeding with any other business. This assertion was received with mingled applause and demonstrations of disapprobation. The Grand Master said that Grand Lodge was wasting its time; and that if they wished to alter their laws, they must take the proper legal mode of doing so, by giving due notice of the proposed alterations to the Board of Masters, who met that day fortnight; till then, nothing could be done.

The first clause was then put, and Brother Aria rose to make a statement of the causes which had led to the appointment of the Committee, which have been fully detailed both in communication from the colonies and in reports of speeches in Grand Lodge. Amongst other things he stated that he sent a letter of very great importance to the Grand Master from Jamaica, in 1847, and he left the island in 1853, and up to that date no answer whatever had been received. This announcement was received with loud cries of "Shame" and other expressions of disapprobation. He said he knew there could be no mistake about the matter; for the communication had been put into the Grand Secretary's own hands. [Renewed disapprobation.] He would have read some documents in proof of his assertions, but was called to order by the Rev. Bro. Cox. The Grand Master also said that such charges deserved a separate motion, and should not be introduced incidentally; and Bro. Dobie said these statements should be made to the Committee appointed to consider the question.

Bro. Burlington said it was largely on Bro. Aria's evidence that the Board was appointed, and it was a waste of time to go into details then.

It was now twenty minutes to ten o'clock, when the first clause,— "That it is expedient that a board be formed, to be called 'The Colonial Board,' to consist of ten members of Grand Lodge, five of whom shall be a quorum,"—was put and carried unanimously; the hour and forty minutes having been devoted principally to the discussion of the adjournment question, and to assertions on the part of the Grand Master that the question, should not be discussed.

Clause II. "That the said board shall, after the first instance, be nominated and elected at the same time and in the same manner as the Board of General Purposes, with the exceptions hereinafter specified," was read, put, and carried.

Clause III. "That, when practicable, three of the above board shall be Past Masters of Colonial Lodges, members of Grand Lodge," was read, put, and carried, when Bro. Hall rose to address Grand Lodge on it.

There were loud cries of "It's carried, it's carried," from all parts of Grand Lodge, but the Grand Master ruled that, not having put "the centenary," the question could not be carried in the sense of preventing Bro. Hall from speaking upon it.

Bro. Hall objected to the words "when practicable," as being too vague and indefinite.

The Rev. Bro. Portal said, if the Grand Lodge was not to be turned into a debating society, neither should it become a court of *msi prius*. [Loud laughter, and cheers.]

The clause was at length carried

On Clause IV., "That the said board shall have similar powers, as regards the colonies, to those at present exercised by the Board of General Purposes,"

Bro. Dobie contended that this clause appointed a board which took some of powers of the Board of General Purposes away from it; they should not have a separate jurisdiction. This clause was an alteration of the law, and as such could not be

moved in its present shape upon that occasion; it must be done in the regular way.

Bro. Roxburgh objected to the proposed constitution of the committee, which he said would be *imperium in imperio*.

Bro. Havers, after some dissension, said they could not pass the resolution in its present shape, because it would take powers from the Board of General Purposes.

Bro. Portal said it was their intention to take powers from the Board of General Purposes. He suggested that the resolution should be amended thus: "Such board shall have the same powers as regards the colonies as those exercised by the Board of General Purposes, to the exclusion of the latter."

The Grand Master: "I don't wish to argue against the new board, but due notice must be given ere you abrogate the laws."

Bro. Aria suggested that the new board would be supplementary, and not antagonistic.

Bro. Dobie said the Board of General Purposes had power to "hear and determine all subjects of complaint." The promoters of this movement should have consulted the Book of Constitutions in the preparation of their scheme.

Bro. Symonds: "It does not say that the Board of General Purposes must hear these questions, and I should think, when a question has been decided by the Colonial Board, the General Purposes Board will not interfere with it. If dissatisfied with the Colonial Committee, you can appeal to Grand Lodge."

Bro. Fandel suggested that the Colonial Board should report to the Board of General Purposes.

The Grand Master thought this was a solution of the difficulty. It was very desirable that the question should be settled.

A long discussion ensued, some of the Brethren suggesting that if the Colonial Board reported to the Board of General Purposes, they might as well go to the Board of General Purposes, at once, which they could do now.

Colonel Burlton objected to the amendment, as defeating the objects of the board they were about to appoint.

The clause was agreed to, with three dissentients.

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

On Clause VI., "That the board so constituted shall meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 3 p. m."

Bro. Havers thought they should not be bound to meet at any particular time.

Bro. Aria thought they should, because the brethren from the colonies, when they came to this country, would always know when to come up to town if they wished to appear before the board.

Carried unanimously.

Clause VII., "That it shall be the special duty of the Grand Secretary to submit to the Board all communications whatever received from the colonies at its first meeting after their receipt," was carried without discussion.

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

A discussion ensued on the addition of Bro. Aria's name to the committee.

Bro. Savage objected to the resolutions as vague, not stating what should be the qualifications of its members, but some one suggested that it was only necessary that they should be members of Grand Lodge.

Carried unanimously.

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The Canadian Masonic Pioneer.

MONTREAL, FEB. 2, 1857.

It has been our painful task on one or two occasions to allude to the ungenerous and persecuting spirit displayed by certain lodges and individuals still adhering to the Grand Lodge of Britain, towards their brethren of the Grand Lodge of Canada; it is now, however, our pleasing duty to record a fact connected with the subordinates of those Grand bodies, which offers a pleasing contrast to such conduct; and which we are convinced will be received with unbounded satisfaction by our readers, and by all good masons who sincerely desire to see the Craft in Canada living in that spirit of union and harmony which should be characteristic of masonry throughout the globe.

We learn from a valued correspondent that on the last St. John's day, after the installation of the officers of St. John's and Kilwinning Lodges, London, C. W., the members of those bodies adjourned to a sumptuous entertainment which had been prepared in their banquet hall; at the festive board all went "merry as a marriage bell," the usual toasts were given and had been responded to, when "an alarm" was announced; on "seeing the cause" it was ascertained that a delegation from St. George's Lodge of the same place, headed by their newly elected officers craved admittance to offer the customary congratulations amongst masons on the anniversary of their patron saint. St. George's Lodge, our readers must understand, still hails from the Grand Lodge of England, and since the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Canada with which the other two lodges are affiliated, its members have been estranged from their brethren. As the motives of this friendly visit were readily understood, the deputation was unhesitatingly admitted and received with the most enthusiastic cheers; in honor of such welcome visitors the standard toasts were repeated, all differences were forgotten, and the brethren, as became good men and true masons, resolved that from whatever Grand Lodge they may hail hereafter, all discord

should cease between them. How gratifying must be the knowledge of such a reconciliation to every genuine craftsman—all honour say we to the brethren of the above lodge—may their noble conduct find a ready response in the breast of every brother throughout the length and breadth of the land; should it do so, our differences whatever they are, will soon be healed, once cast asunder, and prejudice, and pride aside, and look dispassionately, honestly and fairly into the merits of all matters in dispute, and we doubt not for a moment, but that every question at issue will be honorably settled to the satisfaction of all; it may be and is, the policy of some, (for even freemasonry is not without its bad members,) to advise contention and high-handed measures whose peace and forbearance would have been more effectual, unquestionably more masonic. We earnestly trust, however, that our troubles in Canada are at an end, that following the noble example of our brethren in London, C. W., the members of the different lodges throughout the country will, letting "bye gones be bye gones" and profiting by the experience of the past, dwell together in unity: "a house divided against itself cannot stand," says Holy writ, let it not be exemplified in Canadian masonry.

The Grand Masonic Ball under the auspices of the Lodges in this city, connected with the Grand Lodge of Canada, came off with great success at the Donegana Hotel on the eve of new years day. The attendance was numerous so much as that from between the hour of 11 p. m. until midnight, the large and splendid dining room of the Hotel which on this occasion was used as the ball room was uncomfortably crowded:—We observed amongst the company several brethren from the neighbouring States of Vermont and New York and were glad also to see a fair sprinkling of members from the Scotch and English Lodges of the city. Our Brother of the Transcript gives so excellent and graphic an account of the proceedings that we are tempted to copy largely from him on the occasion, he says.

The magnificent ballroom was beautifully decorated; this part of the arrangements having been very properly left entirely to the taste of V. W. Bro. Spence. Immediately under the cornice, and around the whole of the room were suspended masonic mottoes and devices, and the names of some of the burning and slaying lights of the craft. Amongst the number we noticed "Oliver," "Preston," "Morris," "Zetland," "Wilson"; and among the mottoes were "Brotherly Love," "Relief," "Truth," "Faith, Hope, Charity," "Honor," "Fidelity," &c. In each space there was a masonic emblem in gold. In every window there was a Terra Cotta Vase and pedestal containing large bouquets of evergreens and flowers, and in the centre one a beautiful miniature Masonic Temple. In the panels between the windows were the seals of the different Lodges in elaborate gold borders: also wreaths of flowers

with masonic emblems in gold and blue. At the extreme end of the room there was a beautiful Tableau (painted by Mr. Duncan) representing the old and new year. In the centre was a large bell tolling the passing hour; on the right side there was a group of females supporting a youthful figure, crowned with a star of gold; on the other side, an old man, representing the departing year supported on the backs of figures hooded and draped in black and carrying torches. Over the entrance door was a beautiful Maltese cross, in imitation brilliants, with the square and compass brilliantly illuminated in gas. The following mottoes were also arranged in the room:—"Prosperity to the Grand Lodge of Canada." "May the emblems of a Mason ever remind him of his duty." "Constant in Love, sincere in Friendship," "May Honor and Virtue distinguish the brethren." To the spirited strains of Liston's Quadrille Band, the "many twinkling feet" were soon, tripping through the mazes of the dance; and polka, quadrille, waltz and cotillon, contra dance and gallop, varied the tone of the evening's amusement. As the clock struck twelve, the band stopped in the midst of the gay polka they were playing, and at once commenced "God Save the Queen." Dancing was for the time suspended, and at the conclusion of the National Anthem three hearty cheers ushered in the good new year. Very shortly afterwards the supper-room was thrown open, where by the watchful care of Brother Daly, all that could be procured good for food and pleasing to the eye, was displayed, and the tables literally groaned under the weight of the good things that were on them.

"Until early morn the ball was kept up; while old ladies and gentlemen struck to the card-room, and played their rubbers with immense satisfaction.

A sketch of the ball was taken, and has been sent to the proprietor of Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, of New York, in which it will shortly appear. We have made arrangements to obtain the cut and shall present our subscribers each with a copy.

We have received a pamphlet containing the proceedings of the M. W., the Grand Lodge of the State of Connecticut at its last annual communication, held in the city of New Haven, May 14 and 15, A. L. 5856; and on perusal learn that G. L., has not received any official communication from the Grand Lodge of Canada—how is this? We trust our worthy Grand Secretary, brother Osborne, will see that our Connecticut brethren are well posted up. The following are the observations of their Committee on foreign correspondence.

The foregoing is all the information we have from Canada, not having received any official communication from the new Grand Lodge. We have deemed it our duty to lay before our brethren the action of Vermont in the premises, as well as the opinion of Grand Master Evans, of New York. There can scarcely be more than one opinion as to the desirableness of having an independent Grand Lodge in Canada, or whether our Canadian brethren have cause for complaint against the Mother Grand Lodge of England.

The only question is, have our brethren in

the Province acted *hastily* or *illegally*, in thus severing their connection with a foreign jurisdiction, and establishing an independent Grand Lodge for themselves? The enlightened committee of Vermont seem to think they have not, while the intelligent and careful Grand Master of New York thinks they have. In view of the circumstances of the case, and of numerous precedents which might be cited, your committee are rather disposed to agree in opinion with their Vermont brethren. Whether it is necessary or proper that the Grand Lodge of Connecticut should take any action on this subject and in advance of direct official correspondence from the newly formed Grand Lodge of Canada, is a question which we respectfully submit for consideration.

Again they say.—

"In view of the embarrassing circumstances which our Canadian brethren have so long been placed, we can not fail to sympathize with them in their efforts to place themselves on a firm and independent basis. We therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved.—That the Grand Lodge of Connecticut has learned with satisfaction, the fact that an Independent Grand Lodge has been organized in the province of Canada; that we recognize said organization as a legally constituted Grand Lodge; and do cordially welcome her to the great family of American Grand Lodges."

The Grand Lodge declined for the present to take any action owing to the want of special information.

In accordance with our promise, we lay before our readers the address of the Montreal Lodges, through their Officers, to the G. M. of the Grand Lodge of Vermont.

To the M. W. Phillip C. Tucker, Esq., Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Vermont:

M. W. SIR AND BROTHER,—We the undersigned Masters, Wardens and Officers of the several Lodges of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons, in the City of Montreal, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, desire to express to you the sincere gratification which we in common with the members of our Lodges feel, in having the privilege we now enjoy of extending to you a most cordial and hearty welcome to our City.

Whilst we rejoice that the public celebration of an important event in the history of our country, which is about taking place here, has brought so distinguished a craftsman among us—we regret, that it precludes the possibility of giving you a reception more formal, and better suited to your exalted talents and position. We cannot, however, allow the opportunity to pass, without acknowledging the deep debt of gratitude which we, and the Masons of Canada generally, owe to you, and to the Grand Lodge over which you preside, for the just and liberal action you have been pleased to adopt towards the Grand Lodge of Canada.

Although but few of us have had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with you, your high Masonic character is well known to us all. Your name, though never mentioned by us, but with that esteem and gratitude so eminently deserved, is as familiar among us as "household words;" and we are confident that it will be transmitted among Canadian Masons from generation to generation, venerated as being the name of him, whose sense of duty shrank not from supporting the righteous cause of Canadian Masonry in the hour of necessity.

Permit us in conclusion R. W. Sir, to express the hope that your present visit to our City may be attended with pleasure to yourself and family, and on some future occasion we shall have the pleasure in receiving you in a manner more in accordance with our wishes and the respect and honor due to you from the Craft in Canada.

John H. Isaacson, W. M. Zetland Lodge.
P. D. Brown, W. M. St. George's do
R. A. Malcolm, S. W., S. & M. V. do
John Martin, J. W. Zetland do
A. W. King, S. W. Zetland do
L. Levey, S. W. St. George's do
Wm. Reed, Secretary of Zetland do
David Moss., Treasurer St. George do
Edward Moss., Treasurer Zetland do
Edwin Morris J. W. S. & M. V. do
Phillip Henry, G. M., S. & M. V. do
J. W. Haldimand, W. M. J. Car. do
J. C. Spence, J. W. St. George's do
Montreal, Nov. 11, 5856.

The Masonic Ball given at London Canada West seems to have been a most magnificent affair. It was held in the Town Hall of that city. The room, we are informed by a correspondent, was most handsomely decorated with masonic emblems; at its head an elegant drapery in large gold letters appeared the names "Wilson," "Ridout," "Daniells," &c., at the other end the names of the city lodges, *St. John's, Kilwinning, and St. George's*. A splendid throne was erected raised upon three steps, behind it a large and beautifully executed transparency, showing the pillars, &c., &c. The blue lodge chapter and knights templars entered in procession, opened their ranks through which the M. W. the Grand Master, who honored the hall by his presence walked to the chair, after which the brethren marched past doing homage, the public grand honors were then given, and the M. W. the Grand Master offered a few eloquent remarks, which were extremely well received; dancing then commenced, and was kept up with unflagging zeal until a late hour; the supper was worthy of the occasion. The attendance was large, and everything passed off most agreeably.

We have much pleasure in acceding to the desire of several of our Brant Brethren by publishing the following in the Pioneer. It would have appeared before, only that our columns have been pro-engaged:

SIMCOE, Oct. 17, 1855.

Worshipful Sir and Dear Bro.—You will please convey to the Worshipful Master and Brethren of Brant Lodge, my sincere thanks for the active interest displayed by them in making the arrangements for laying the foundation stone of Grace Church.

The very short notice given by the gentlemen forming the Building Committee to the Masonic authorities, must have called forth extraordinary efforts on the part of the Local Committee; and it is extremely gratifying to me to know that in any case of emergency, The Grand Lodge of Canada can at all times rely with confidence upon the active and zealous co-operation of Brant Lodge.

I was also much pleased to see so many of our Lodges represented upon that interesting occasion.

For your own unwearied and successful exertions in the matter, I am also especially obliged.

I continue,

W. Sir and Dear Bro.

Fraternally yours,

(Signed)

Wm. M. Wilson,

G. M.

Thos. Rawlings, Esq., P. M. }
D. C. Brant Lodge, No. 22. }

Extracts from minutes of Brant Lodge, No. 22, at regular Monthly Lodges, held Nov. 11, 1856:

“Moved by Bro. Gilkison, seconded by Bro. Henwood, P. M. and carried unanimously.

That the letter just read from the Most Worshipful the Grand Master to Bro. Rawlings, P. M. Director of Ceremonies, dated 17th ult., be entered on the minutes, and that the Lodge express the satisfaction with which they have learned that the arrangements made on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of Grace Church in Brantford, with masonic ceremony, under the auspices of the Grand Master have obtained his high approval.

Moved by Bro. Skinner, seconded by Bro. Racey, and carried unanimously.

That the efficient and truly Masonic bearing of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master on the interesting occasion referred to in the foregoing resolution, demand from this Lodge the expression of their most cordial and fraternal thanks.”

New York has as yet been unable to settle her own difficulties, she is one of the few Grand Lodges which has thrown obstacles in the way of the Grand Lodge of Canada, until her own affairs are better conditioned, we are not over anxious for her countenance or support.

We learn that Bro. White, the late Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England, yielding to the pressure from without, has resigned his office.

ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 5857.

SUSSEX LODGE, NO. 6, BROCKVILLE, C. W.

- W. Bro. Thos. Camm..... W. M.
- V. W. “ Ross..... P. M.
- “ F. M. Holmes..... S. W.
- “ David Wylie..... J. W.
- “ F. A. Despart..... Secy.
- “ John McElleney..... Treas.
- “ W. L. Morris..... S. D.
- “ J. M. Lawdor..... J. D.
- “ C. W. Foster..... } Stewards
- “ J. T. Buell..... }
- “ W. Martin..... J. G.
- “ R. Ballard..... Tyler.

REHOBOTH LODGE, NO. 20, TORONTO, C. W.

- W. Brother E. R. O'Brien..... W. M.
- V. W. “ G. L. Allen..... P. M.
- “ W. H. Pardey..... S. W.
- “ Geo. P. Lauder..... J. W.
- “ John Maughan..... Treas.
- “ J. R. Boyd..... Secy.
- “ A. J. Cambie..... S. W.
- “ H. S. Weatherly..... J. D.
- “ L. H. Shortt..... I. G.
- “ John Clarko..... Tyler.

HOYLE LODGE, NO. 25, LACOLLE C. E.

- W. Brother Thos. Kemp..... W. M.
- V. W. “ R. Hoyle..... P. M.
- “ R. Douglas..... S. W.
- “ Dr. T. S. Haynes..... J. W.
- “ W. H. Vanbloit..... Secy.
- “ H. Wilson..... Treas.
- “ Jno. Remington..... S. D.
- “ Wm. H. Weld..... J. D.
- “ David Kortland..... J. G.
- “ Trueman Van Orman..... Tyler.

LODGE OF STRICT OBSERVANCE, NO. 16.

- R. W. Bro. Richard Bull..... W. M.
- R. W. “ John Osborn..... P. M.
- “ George Patton..... S. W.
- “ James Mounsey Rogerson..... J. W.
- “ William Bellhouse..... Chap.
- “ Richard Benner..... Treas.
- “ Henry Grist..... Secy.
- “ John Barclay Ellison..... S. D.
- “ John Alexander Bruce..... J. D.
- “ John Phineas Dowker..... M. C.
- “ Hugh Morrison Melville..... O.
- “ Joseph Mills..... } Stewards
- “ Hugh McInnes..... }
- “ George Wright..... I. G.
- “ John Morrison..... Tyler.
- “ Samuel G. Patton..... } C. C.
- “ James M. Rogerson..... }
- “ George James..... }

LIST OF OFFICERS OF INDEPENDENT LODGE, QUEBEC.

- W. Bro. D. Gale..... W. M.
- “ William Eadon..... P. M.
- “ John Lee..... S. W.
- “ Archibald McCallum..... J. W.
- “ John Lindsay..... Treas.
- “ H. Owen..... Secy.
- “ R. A. Carden..... Chaplain
- “ G. Morgan..... S. D.
- “ Samuel Johnston..... J. D.
- “ Thomas Simpson..... I. G.
- “ Charles..... Tyler.
- “ N. Barnstein..... } Stewards
- “ John McAdams..... }

Installation of the Officers of Prevoist Lodge No. 7, Dunham C. R.

This Lodge met at the regular communication on Tuesday the 6th instant, at their Lodge-room when the following Officers were duly installed:

- V. W. Bro. David Brown W. M.
- “ Charles Brown S. W.
- “ C. S. Vincent, J. W.
- “ Wm. Baker, Treasurer.
- “ C. S. Brown, Sec.
- W.D.D.M. Bro. Rev. J. Scott, Chaplain.
- “ G. Cassion, S. D.
- “ H. Suby, J. D.
- “ H. N. Scott, D. C.
- W. B. Seely, Tyler.

Brethren L. Strite and E. Keyes, Stewards. The work of the Lodge having been closed the Lodge repaired to the Hotel of A. W. Hubbard, where a bountiful supper was prepared, which was disposed of in a manner indicative of hungry masons. The cloth was removed, and the Queen and Craft were drunk with all the honors.

The W. M. then proposed the health of the M. W. the Grand Master of Canada, with such remarks as were due to one taking the front of the great Masonic battle in Canada, a pioneer in the cause of Free Masons interests, one who did not hesitate to devote time, talents and money to the noble undertaking of establishing and sustaining a Grand Lodge in Canada. This was drunk with enthusiasm, such as can only be found among good and zealous Grand Lodge of Canada Masons.

Several volunteer toasts were offered, and among them one to that first and staunch friend of the G. L. of Canada, the Hon. P. C. Tucker, G. M. of the G. L. of Vermont, this was received with the most satisfactory evidence of lasting respect, veneration and brotherly love.

At an early hour the brethren parted with the J. Warden's usual toast, better satisfied than ever with each other and all others of the craft.

COMMUNICATED.

Such Lodges as may be desirous of having the list of their officers published in the Pioneer, will please furnish us with the names.

Merited Testimonial.

A few days since we had the pleasure of inspecting a beautiful Gold Medal, presented by Norfolk Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons to their worthy Secretary, Bro. Henry Groff, as a mark of their esteem and appreciation of his services in his capacity of Secretary to that Lodge, which office he has most creditably filled for the past ten years. The medal is indeed a splendid piece of workmanship, and justly may Mr. G. be proud of this token of respect and esteem from his Brethren. On the face is the following inscription:—

Presented by the Members of
NORFOLK LODGE
Of Free and Accepted Masons to
Bro. HENRY GROFF,

As a Token of their Appreciation of his
Valuable services as Secretary for
ten years.
1856.

On the reverse side is a Masonic star, with the letter G. inwrought, and various other insignia of the Order.

The Medal was presented on Saturday evening, at a special meeting for the installation of officers for the current Masonic year. We have to congratulate Mr. Groff on this handsome testimonial to his merit. In our next we shall give the accompanying address and reply.

The following gentlemen were installed as officers of Norfolk Lodge, for the Masonic year, on the occasion.—

Bro. Henry Crouse, W. M.
“ G. W. Powell, S. W.
“ Henry Groff, J. W.
“ Jno. McK. Wilson, Secretary.
“ Daniel Matthews, Treasurer.
“ George Jackson, S. D.
“ W. B. Osborne, J. D.
“ John Weatherly, Tyler.
“ A. Wilson, Inner G'd.

Stewards—Bros. W T Wilson, Samuel
Sovereign. L G Sovereign H B Schuyler,
Conservative Standard.

The Grand Lodge of Vermont held its Annual Communication on the 14th and 15th ultimo, at Burlington, the Canada question occupied a prominent place in its deliberation, its former action recognizing the Grand Lodge of Canada was sustained without a dissentient voice. The M. W. the Grand Master Phillip C. Tucker, Esq., in his address learnedly and eloquently advocated the cause of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that she had been established in accordance with all masonic law and custom; we hope in our next issue to be enabled to lay that portion of his address before our readers which alludes more particularly to Canadian affairs.

The Masonic Levee at Burlington, Vermont, held on the 14th ultimo, was most numerous and fashionably attended, we had the pleasure of being present and honestly assure our

readers never spent a more agreeable evening, the ladies were beautiful, the gentlemen polite, the music enchanting, the supper most *recherche*; indeed every thing was so admirably arranged that we have no hesitation in saying that the Burlington Ball was among the best of the season, the large dining room of the American Hotel was used for the occasion and tastefully decorated. At its head, beautifully festooned together appeared the American and British flags, the walls were everywhere adorned with masonic devices, and the names Tucker, Haswell, Whitney, Wilson and Bernard, were prominently conspicuous; the two latter being Canadians, we must consider the mention of them on such an occasion a graceful compliment to the fraternity here.

Our brother of the *Masonic Observer*, Bath, England, seems to be something of a poet, below we give his description in verso of “The Castle of Indolence, *alias* the Office of the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England.

THE VISION.

’Twas the hour of night when dreams come true,
And away in sleep my spirit flew,
Over dusky court and alley dim,
And street, and square, and crescent trim,
Till I reached a mansion stately and tall,
Not very far off from Fr-m-s-n’s Hall.
The door open’d wide, and I scaled the stone stair,
And before me an office of business like air,
With ledgers, and desks, and clerks fair to see,
But scarce had I enter’d when over each limb
Came a feeling of torpor—my brain ’gan to swim,
And an opiate spell seem’d to bind every sense,
For this was the Castle of Indolence.
And through the oppressive and sleepy air
There brooded a phantom of dull despair.
And the clerks wrote on, but they wrote in vain—
For like Penelope’s mystic skein,
Beginning and end their labours had none—
The more that they wrote, the less was done.
And the desks, and shelves, and floors were number’d

With letters unanswer’d and papers unnumber’d—
Letters that told of hopes betray’d,
Of ancient friends now rivals made;
Of feud and strife, and discord’s cry
Where once was peace and harmony.
But whilst I mus’d, a sudden din
Proclaim’d the Colonial Mail was in—
Petitions and letters many a one
From the land of the rising and setting sun.
But scarce had they entered that grisly room,
When a phantasm shade pronounced their doom—
The Petition first with its vain appeal
Unopen’d, unread, unbroken its seal,
Surrendered its last indignant breath
Under quires of foolscap press’d to death—
And the next despatch (for I heard its name,
From distant Hamilton’s G—d L-dge it came)
Alas! rebellious deemed in traitor shape,
Was strangled in the pitiless red tape,
And again, and again another was hurld
Out of the sphere of the official world,
Without remorse and with reckless haste
Into the baskets of paper waste—
Their place unknown and their name forgot
Till sold as old rags for a penny the lot.

And when sore wondering at the scene
I sought to know what it might mean,
I turned to one who stood beside—
And he in sleepy tones replied—
“ This is the place the ‘Lodge of Silence’ hight,
“ And that despairing shade, is Brother White.”

On the 15th ultimo the brethren of Nelson Lodge, No. 11, C. R., gave a ball and supper at Henryville, C.E., which we learn was a very pleasant affair. From forty to fifty couple were present, dancing was kept up with great spirit until daylight of the next morning. The refreshments were supplied by bro. Parker, at whose house the ball took place, and gave very general satisfaction.

FOREIGN PROVERBS.—The man who returns good for evil is a tree which renders its shade and its fruit even to those who cast stones at it.

A man passeth for a sage when he seeks for wisdom; but if he thinks he has found it he is a fool.

The diamond fallen into the dunghill is not the less precious; and the dust raised by high winds to heaven is not less vile.

Patience is a tree whose roots are bitter, but the fruit is very sweet.

Ten poor men can sleep tranquilly upon a mat; but two kings are not able to live at peace in a quarter of the world.

A promise should be given with caution and kept with care. A promise should be made by the heart and remembered with the head. A promise is the offspring of intention, and should be nurtured by recollection. A promise should be the result of reflection. A promise and its performance should, like the scales of a true balance, always present a mutual adjustment.

FREEMASONS’ MONTHLY MONITOR.—Brother Edward Willis of St. John, N. B., proposes to publish a magazine to be devoted to the interest of Freemasonry with the above significant title. Bro. W. states in his Prospectus that “he has well considered the nature of the duties and responsibilities he is about to assume;” and that “he is fully satisfied that the present condition of Masonry in this Province (New Brunswick) demands the publication of a journal devoted to the interests of the Craft.” The price of the magazine is only five shillings per annum, in advance.

The remains of the late Major FERNS, formerly of the 76th Foot, retired on full pay, were interred in the Fort Massey Military Cemetery on Thursday, May 29th. The funeral obsequies were strictly Masonic. The hearse was preceded by a numerous body of the Craft, civil and military, wearing their regalia, &c., draped in black crape, and the coffin was followed by Col. Clarke and officers of the garrison, and a great many civilians, friends of the deceased, the whole headed by fine band of H. M. 76th. Regiment, playing funeral dirges, among which that sublime composition, the “*Dead March in Saul*,” was performed with much majesty and sweetness. The mournful procession passed through several of the principal streets, on its way to the Military Cemetery, and its imposing appearance was the subject of general remark. The Rev. Dr. Twining, Grand Chaplain, officiated at the grave, and subsequent to the performance of the beautiful Church of England burial service, Bro. William Hesson, in accordance with the custom of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity, read an eloquent funeral oration, after which the brethren went through the ceremonies customary on the interment of a Mason. The obsequies concluded, the brethren marched to the Masonic Hall, the band playing the old “*Free-*”

masons' March.—*Halifax, N. S., Morn- ing Chronicle.*

MASTER MASONS OF ANTWERP.—A curious custom still exists among the guild of Masons. Henri Consicence, the great Belgian writer, says, that whenever a new Master was to be elected, it was necessary that, previously to being initiated into his somewhat important position, he should prove himself worthy of the dignity about to be conferred on him, by pulling down and re-building, with his own hands, the facade of one portion of the building, which has consequently been re-erected innumerable times, though the remainder of the edifice is sufficiently venerable. If the candidate shrank from this trial, there was no alternative but to give up his claim.

A poor woman recently applied to a charitable institution in the city of Philadelphia for assistance, giving as a reason why she needed relief, that her husband followed politics for a living, and did not support his family.

THERE is nothing innocent or good that dies and is forgotten. Let us hold to that faith, or none. An infant, a prattling child, dying in its cradle, will live again in the better thoughts of those who loved it, and play its part, through them, in redeeming actions of the world, though the body be burnt to ashes, or drowned in the deepest sea. There is not an angel added to the Host of Heaven but does its blessed work on earth in those who loved it here. "Forgotten! oh, if the good deeds of human creatures could be traced to their source, how beautiful even would death appear; for how much charity, mercy and purified affection would seem to have their growth in the grave.—*Dickens.*

SORROWS.—Sorrow is the night of the mind. What would be a day without its night? The day reveals one sun only; the night brings to light the whole of the universe. The analogy is complete. Sorrow is the firmament of thought and the school of intelligence.

A. R. MACDONALD,

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WILL RE-OPEN his ROOMS over Mr. Wm. WARREN'S Hardware Store, Notre Dame Street, (opposite Recollet Church,) on WEDNESDAY EVENING next, the 3rd December.

EVENINGS as follows:—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Families and Schools attended
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November 1, 1856.

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26 Great St. James Street,
MONTREAL.
November 1, 1856.

ALEXANDER MCGIBBON,
WHOLESALE & RETAIL
Grocer, Wine, Ale & Spirit Merchant
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Passenger Agent, Vermont Central R.R.,
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GEORGE LULHAM.
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CARRIAGES will be in attendance at the Railroad and Steamboat Depots, on the arrival of Cars and Boats.

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July 1, 1856.

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MONTREAL.
July 1, 1856.

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