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# THE FREEMASON'S JOURNAL,



DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF FREEMASONS IN  
CANADA.

ISSUED MONTHLY.

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Subscription, \$1.00 per annum, payable in  
advance.

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Box 808½ MONTREAL,

*Publisher and Proprietor,*

**BRO. THOMAS PARSONS.**

MONTREAL, JAN. 15, 1870.

DEAR SIR AND BRO. :

I beg to forward to your address the first number of **THE FREEMASON'S JOURNAL** and would request your personal influence in securing subscribers towards the same.

**THE FREEMASON'S JOURNAL** will be issued on the 15th of every month and will be mailed to subscribers at \$1.00 per annum.

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**PAYABLE STRICTLY IN ADVANCE.**

A limited number of *Advertisements* will be inserted on application to the undersigned.

A portion of our space will be devoted to the insertion of the nights and places of meeting of all the Lodges in the Province of Quebec.

Permit me to solicit from you any contributions and items of general and local interest in your opinion worthy of publication, and oblige,

Your respectfully and fraternally,

**THOMAS PARSONS.**

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P.S.—Please favor us with returns of elections in Lodges, Chapters and Encampments, at the earliest possible date.

T. P.

THE  
FREEMASON'S JOURNAL

Devoted to the interests of Freemasons in Canada.

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PUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR:—BRO. THOMAS PARSONS.

ADDRESS:—Box 808½ Montreal.

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Published on the 15th of }  
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VOL. I

MONTREAL, JANUARY 15, 1870.

No. 1

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We believe that the time has now arrived when the Masons of the Province of Quebec require an independent Masonic Journal devoted to their interests.

We acknowledge that the "Craftsman" and the "Gavel," two publications issued in the sister Province of Ontario, are well and ably conducted, yet it must be admitted, that in the discussions arising out of the present crisis, it is only natural to expect that a preference will be shown to *their* Province, notwithstanding the manly tone of the latter Journal in its first number.

In the many issues that will undoubtedly surround a peaceable separation from the Grand Lodge of Canada, a confliction of interests cannot well be avoided, therefore we believe that a Journal published in our midst, explaining our present position and the course to be taken in future, will work materially to the advantage of all concerned.

We propose to devote a large portion of our space in specially advocating the union of all the Lodges in this Province, under one supreme head; firmly believing that a proper understanding of this important subject will incontestibly prove the desirability of such a course.

We have to thank, many prominent and eminent brethren, for their offers of assistance and support in the establishment of this Journal, and trust that the great body of the Fraternity, not only in this Province, but in the whole Dominion, will contribute towards the success of a periodical devoted to their best interests and advocating the principles of our order.

In conclusion, it remains only to say that every effort will be made to make The Freemason's Journal a thoroughly reliable Masonic record of events passing around us, and we confidently claim sufficient support to enable us to succeed in our undertaking.

## GRAND LODGE OF QUEBEC.

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*From the N. Y. Democrat.*

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IN THE DEMOCRAT of December 29th ult., we referred to the organization of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and then stated, that "the Circular letter addressed to the several Grand Lodges of the World, asking for recognition as a Supreme Grand Lodge, contains arguments as well as statement of facts, which, in our *present opinion*, justifies the action had by our Quebec brothers; and unless they can be proved to be otherwise, by the Grand Lodge of Canada, the upgrowth of a revolution itself, we cannot imagine a reason why the newly formed Grand Lodge of Quebec, should not be welcomed into the family of Grand Lodges."

Since we penned the above we have been placed in possession of the circular letter of M. W. Bro. A. A. Stevenson, Grand Master of Masons in Canada, addressed "to the Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and officers of Lodges, and all Masonic Brethren, to whom these presents may come;" under date of October 12, 1869, informing them that it was within his knowledge that certain brethren were agitating the question of the formation of a Grand Lodge for the Province of Quebec and had held unauthorized and clandestine meetings for the purpose of promoting said object; and enjoining them "to abstain from further agitation of this question until the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge," meaning the Grand Lodge of Canada.

A *majority* of the Lodges in the Province of Quebec,—which Province, by the proclamation of the British North American Act on July 1, 1867, became a separate and distinct Province from that portion of Canada formerly known as Upper Canada, or Canada West, with which it was formerly united, and now known as the Province of Ontario, each Province from the date of said proclamation having its own territorial boundaries and its own Legislature, with a Lieutenant-Governor placed over each by the Governor General of what was on that date constituted the Dominion of Canada, which latter comprised within its territory, in addition to Ontario and Quebec, the former independent Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia,—following the example of the Lodges in the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, where independent Grand Lodges had been formed, held (notwithstanding the edict of the Grand Master of so-called Grand Lodge of Canada), a Convention at Montreal on the 20th October, 1869, and then and there in accordance with the usage of Masonry erected themselves into a Grand Lodge for the Province of Quebec, uniting with them in the movement, Lodges within the territory previously hailing under the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland. The mode of action had by these Quebec Lodges was precisely similar to that had by the *minority* of the Lodges in the old United Province of Canada, in October, 1855, when the Grand Lodge of Canada was formed.

Since the formation of a supreme Grand Lodge in and for the Province of Quebec, an Emergent Communication of the still so-called Grand Lodge of Canada, was held at Montreal, Wednesday, December 1, ult., when the M. W. Bro. Stevenson delivered an address, in which he called the attention of the Lodges represented, to the secession of the Lodges in the Province of Quebec, and the formation of what he was pleased to term a "so-called" G. Lodge. This address, after a careful perusal of it, we should imagine was written hastily, if not under excitement and misapprehension. In it he states that the Lodges which seceded did not assert any grievances, nor did they show any advantage which would result from a division of the Grand Lodge. To the latter assertion, we have only to say that the logic of events disproves it, for

certainly no sane persons would dissolve a connection, if they did not think it advantageous; while to the former we will only in refutation of it, quote the following from the official manifesto of the Quebec brethren: "Among the many other important incidental reasons which induced the Freemasons in the Province of Quebec to follow the example of all other parts of the Masonic world, by the formation of a Grand Lodge in the said Province, there may be mentioned the vast length of territory included in the two Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, extending through some *twelve degrees* of longitude, from the State of Maine in the East to the State of Michigan or Central Ohio in the West—the meetings of Grand Lodge itinerating over such vast distances, and causing an enormous and impoverishing expense to many of the Lodges, especially those less wealthy in the country parts, in sending delegates thereto—the impracticability very often, of carrying up appeals and the like before Grand Lodge, except at a ruinous expenditure to many brethren, of time and money, and hence cases oft postponed, or going by default; the impracticability, on account of the necessarily inherent *dual* conflicting provisional interests and preferences, of securing permanently located offices for Grand Lodge, and owned by it; the impracticability of erecting any edifice for the use of Grand Lodge in any locality which would be satisfactory to *both* provinces; the like impossibility of erecting a Masonic asylum, for which a large sum of money was raised and appropriated, and, notwithstanding the 'Asylum Trust' have annually for a long time urged the importance of further action by G. L., have indicated localities, proposed plans, suggested 'ways and means,' yet for the above mentioned and other obvious reasons it has hitherto been found impossible to take action thereon; and the same has been true *under the double-majority regime*, would continue to be true in regard to a proposed Masonic orphan school, Masonic farm, and all other such like schemes of practical Masonic benevolence, any one of which seeming expedient and desirable can, without doubt, be successfully carried out in each province by their respective Grand Lodges." If these be not grievances in the eyes of Grand Master Stevenson, we hardly know what he would call grievances. We do not think the Masonic world will agree with him.

Another of the strong points which M. W. Bro. Stevenson essays is, that, as the separate local governments and legislatures of Ontario and Quebec (before July 1, 1867, united) are under the supervision of Lieutenant-Governors, deriving their appointments from the Governor General of the Dominion, so should the Masons of the Province of Quebec be stopped from establishing their independence, and be compelled to remain subject to the so called Grand Lodge of Canada, but when, by the division of the ties, that, previous to July 1, 1867, bound Canada West and Canada East together, ceases in our opinion to rightfully retain that appellation. If there be any force in that line of argument, it would be fatal to the existence of the Grand Lodge of Canada itself; for, as the Governor-General is only an appointee of the English Crown, so should the Masons of the Canada obedience return to the Grand Lodges from whom its original Lodges derived their warrants. Such objection on the part of the M. W. Bro. Stevenson is as puerile as it is illogical, and unworthy the occasion. Grand Master Stevenson further on in his address asks: "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?" We are really surprised at his asking so simple a question, the more especially, as he was *one* of a Committee of *seven* appointed by the G. L. of Canada in July, 1867, in consequence of the attention of that M. W. Body being called "to the then anomalous state of Masonic affairs, caused by the recent political changes that had taken place," by its Grand Master, Wilson. That committee consisted of *four* from "Ontario" and *three* from "Quebec." The former reported in favor of maintaining the *status in quo*, awaiting further developments; and the latter, of which M. W. Bro. Stevenson was one, reported in favor of an independent Grand Lodge in each of the four Provinces constituting the Domi-

nion of Canada; in two of which provinces recently formed Grand Lodges are now in existence, and only requiring the recent action of the Craft in Quebec to comply with the recommendation of the minority report. But we will answer Bro. Stevenson by informing him of a case precisely analagous. Previous to the civil war in the United States the State of Virginia was a unit, and the Craft in it governed by the G. Lodge of Virginia. Political events caused (as is the case in Canada) a division of the State, and the formation of the State of West Virginia of one portion of it. The consequence was, that the independent government of the new State decided the Masonic question, and led to the formation of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia. Therefore, while before confederation the *then* G. Lodge of Canada could lawfully legislate over the *united* Provinces, subsequent to it their territorial limits were reduced, and by the laws and usages of Masonry the Craft in the newly-formed Province of Quebec became of right independent, and our only surprise is they did not declare it at an earlier day.

The reference to the (imaginary) danger that, if the Quebec Fraternity separate from G. L. of Canada, they will be made the sport of a powerful ecclesiastical hierarchy, who can control the legislation of the Province, is too childish to receive serious consideration; and the M. W. Brother must have overlooked the fact that previous to the formation of the G. Lodge of Canada, the Lodges in Quebec, Montreal, &c., flourished to a greater or lesser extent, though separated thousands of miles from their mother Grand Lodges, without let or hindrance from the Catholic clergy. The establishment of Grand Lodge of Quebec is *un fait accompli*.

F. G. TISDALL, 33<sup>o</sup> Editor.

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#### LETTER OF BRO. A. G. MACKEY OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

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As all information connected with the recent action of the Masons of this Province, is at present of great importance to our readers, we reproduce the letter of Bro. Mackey, the eminent Masonic jurist, on the changes produced by the Act of Confederation, and which appeared in the "Craftsman" of November, 1867.

CHARLESTON, Aug. 1st., 1867.

M. W. BROTHER WM. M. WILSON.

M. W. SIR AND DEAR BROTHER—I have delayed replying to your letter as long as courtesy would permit, for the purpose of giving to its subject that mature consideration which is demanded by its importance.

I think there is no point of Masonic law, on which the concurrent opinion of authorities is more unanimous than this, that Masonic and Political boundaries are co-terminous. The territorial limits of every Grand Lodge are the same as those of the Republic, Kingdom, Empire or State in which it is situated. The Grand Lodge of the State of New-York, cannot for instance, extend its jurisdiction over the State of Pennsylvania nor the Grand Lodge of England over the Empire of France. Again, all territory not Masorically organized by the institution of a Grand Lodge within its territorial limits, is what, in Masonic language, we call "unoccupied territory," and is open to the entrance of any Grand Lodge, which may establish as many Lodges in that territory, subject to its jurisdiction, as it thinks proper, but it can have no title to be the Grand Lodge of that unoccupied territory. Thus early in the 18th century the Grand Lodge of England organized Lodges in France, but it never assumed the title of "Grand Lodge of France." France was then "unoccupied territory" and remained so until a Grand Lodge of France was organized.

Now this doctrine of the co-terminousness of Masonic and Political territory is carried by Masonic jurists to this extent, that if there be a change of Political boundary there must be an equivalent change of Masonic boundary. Thus let the Kingdom of A and the kingdom of B be contiguous and each have a Grand Lodge. Then if by treaty the kingdom of A shall cede a part of its territory, lying on the common boundary to the kingdom of B, all the Lodges in that part of the territory of A which was ceded will come under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of B and the Grand Lodge of A will lose all jurisdiction over them.

Again in reference to the question of co-terminousness of territory, it follows that the name or title of every Grand Lodge should be precisely expressive of the true extent of its jurisdiction, neither more nor less. Thus, it would be improper for a Grand Lodge calling itself the Grand Lodge of England to exercise exclusive jurisdiction over England and Scotland. Suppose that the Masons of Scotland were resolved to abolish their own Grand Lodge and to unite into one jurisdiction with the Masons of England and organize a Grand Lodge common to both Countries. I do not undertake to say there would be any legal objection to this coalescence, but I do say, that clearly in that case the "Grand Lodge of England" would be an improper title for the supervising body. Its only correct title would be the "Grand Lodge of Great Britain."

It appears then the principles of Masonic law are very simple. But in their practical application to the Grand Lodge of Canada I feel that there will be much embarrassment.

Certainly the title of "Grand Lodge of Canada," cannot be applied, since the change in the political relations of the British Provinces, to a Grand Lodge where territorial limits are not co-terminous with those of the whole Dominion of Canada—which does not exercise and does not pretend to exercise jurisdiction over a large part of Canada, over Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

I know but of two ways of settling the difficulties which are beginning to surround you.

First; the four Provinces might unite in the formation of a "Grand Lodge of Canada" which should have jurisdiction over the whole Dominion. This would be very pleasant—a fraternal union of all Canadians in one central body. But would not the territory, especially with your anticipated accession from the Pacific coast be too large and unwieldy for convenience or policy. You might, it is true, have a Provincial Grand Lodge in each Province for local purposes, while the general concerns of the craft would be regulated by the Grand Lodge.

Or each Province might become a separate and independent Masonic territory and form a Grand Lodge for itself just as we have done in the United States.

Such being my views of the present position of the Masonic institution in the new Dominion of Canada, I am prepared to answer your question.

You say: "The question I would now submit to you is—Does this Political Union affect our position as a Grand Lodge in any way, and if so to what extent?"

I reply: It does to this extent. You are no longer the Grand Lodge of Canada. Your locality being in the Province of Ontario, the Province of Quebec, which has been politically severed from you, now forms an unoccupied territory and is open for the organization of a Grand Lodge of Quebec. You yourselves will have to organize a Grand Lodge of Ontario, and the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia remains as it is.

The only way of avoiding four Grand Lodges is for all the Lodges to unite in the formation of a Grand Lodge of Canada. There is no such legal body there now. If this is not consented to, then if I were one of you, I would work very assiduously for the formation of a Grand Lodge of Ontario. This you could do, simply by changing your name and issuing new warrants to your Lodges. Those in Quebec remain under your jurisdiction until a Grand Lodge is formed in that Province.

I am very truly and fraternally yours,

A. G. MACKAY, M. D.



## OUR QUEBEC BRETHERN.

—  
*From the "Gavel," Toronto.*  
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We approach the subject of our Quebec Brethren with mingled feelings of delicacy and hesitation. As a Freemason, acknowledging the supremacy of the Grand Lodge of Canada, we hesitate in opposing what are supposed to be the sentiments of the majority of the members of the same, and on the other hand, it may appear to many of the readers of the *Gavel*, presumptuous on our part to interfere upon a subject, that according to the vote of the representatives assembled in Grand Lodge last month at Montreal, should remain in abeyance until the regular session of that august assemblage in Toronto, next July. However, as many members of the Craft have urged us to commence this publication, we propose at once to express our views relative to the present position of our seceding Masonic Brethren in the Province of Quebec. The following, then, we hold to be the actual position of affairs in our sister Province :

1st. We take it for granted that since the confederation of the Provinces and the consequent separation of the legislative union that had previously, for many years existed, the majority of the Freemasons of Ontario have known that their brethren in the Province of Quebec were desirous of seceding from the so-called Grand Lodge of Canada.

2nd. It is also an admitted fact that a secession (or rather a friendly separation of the Lodges in the Province of Quebec) was expected at the past two sessions of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and with all due respect to the present M. W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, he was elected not only on account of his energy and enthusiasm in all matters concerning the craft, but also because he was a member of a Quebec Lodge.

3rd. It cannot be denied that officials, high in the confidence of Canadian Masons, saw, as soon as the confederation of the Provinces was accomplished, the anomalous position in which the Grand Lodge of Canada was placed, and urged upon the Craft the importance of either a Supreme Grand Lodge for the whole Dominion of Canada, or independent Grand Lodges for each individual Province.

Now we maintain that the above three statements are correct in every particular. We are anxious, when writing upon so important a topic, to be very guarded in our expressions, and on no account to allow ourselves to draw hasty conclusions. We believe, and we say it with all due deference to friend or foe that unfortunately party feeling, pride of position on the one side, and love of arrogant independence on the other, has in more than one instance, caused bitterness of feeling, and prejudiced and narrow-minded expressions of sentiment. These must be thrown overboard when engaged in discussing this important subject. Let us in the first place ask ourselves honestly and squarely, what our Quebec brethren have done, and in the second place, let us put ourselves in a similar position, and say, each one to himself, how would I have acted under similar circumstances ?

What have these Quebec brethren done ? Our Quebec brethren ever since the separation of the legislative union, have desired an Independent Grand Lodge for their own Province, as can be proved by their action in Grand Lodge and before committees of the same, ever since that act came into force. This matter it was decided could not be discussed in Grand Lodge. How then could the matter be brought forward ? Only by a convention composed of delegates from the subordinate lodges within the Province of Quebec. Such a convention was held. The Grand Master of Canada suspended those Masons, including some not on the register

of the Grand Lodge of Canada, on the ground of SECESSION and REBELLION. The question then arose, what course was to be pursued? The answer was, protest against the action of the Grand Master, appeal to the Grand Lodge of Canada for redress, and in the meantime organise an Independent Grand Lodge for the Province of Quebec. This course was pursued.

If we (the Masons of Ontario) had been a small minority of the Grand Lodge of Canada, instead of a large majority, would we not have desired a separate and Independent Grand Lodge for the Province of Ontario? We believe every Freemason, who conscientiously asks himself this question, will answer in the affirmative. Is there a Freemason in the enlightened Province of Ontario, who would bind his Quebec brethren to an organization that was distasteful to them, or refuse the same privilege to the Masons of Quebec, that he freely grants to his brethren in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, viz., an Independent Grand Lodge for each Province in the Dominion. We cannot believe that Freemasonry has come to this, that she will force men unwillingly into some particular fold, and if they conscientiously differ and wish the same privileges granted to others in a similar position, that *we will refuse to grant it, and SUSPEND THEM.*

Our views may appear crude and our reasoning possibly grounded upon a false basis, but all men are apt to err. One thing, however, is certain, and that is, that the principles of our fraternity teach moderation of expression and a broad liberality of thought. It is, therefore, most important that this matter should be decided in a calm and impartial spirit. It is natural the M. W. the Grand Master of Canada should dislike during his administration to see the Lodges within the Province from which he hails, secede; and, on the other hand, it is equally probable that the sentence of suspension passed upon a number of the most prominent members of the craft in that portion of the Dominion, should have irritated and annoyed hundreds of our brethren there; but the grand landmarks of our Institution will yet vindicate themselves and prove that ours is a fraternity true to the noble principles of BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF and TRUTH.

The foundation of Freemasonry cannot be shaken by these petty, frivolous jealousies that are innate to man's nature. Our whole history shows, that though we frequently err, and too often forget our precepts, yet at last the lessons taught in our lectures prevail, and so we believe will be the case in this instance. We cannot, and do not believe, that after mature deliberation and calm reflection, the Masonic fraternity of Ontario desire to force the Grand Lodge of Canada upon the brethren of Quebec, and we moreover feel certain, that if we did attempt any such piece of despotism, that it would avail nothing, and only produce rancor and bitterness of feeling, which would last for years, and do a vast amount of injury to the glorious cause of Freemasonry.

We urge then, upon every lodge in Ontario, the importance of a free discussion of this matter. It is absolutely necessary that every Entered Apprentice in the Province should thoroughly understand the position of affairs. We must weigh well the consequences of a refusal of recognition and a continuance of the suspension of the leading Masons of a sister Province. Other Grand Lodges will, sooner or later, recognize them, and we believe no power on earth can force them into the fold of the Grand Lodge of Canada. Already the trump of war has been sounded, and each party before July will have marshaled its forces. Upon our action at the next session of Grand Lodge will rest the onus of a refusal of recognition, or the honor of being the first in the great sisterhood of Grand Lodges to recognise our own offspring—bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh.

In conclusion, we would remind our readers that at one time the Grand Lodge of England refused to recognize us, and the result was that for a period, we were in a similar position to that in which our Quebec brethren are now placed. It behoves us,

therefore, to be very careful in judging others, who, to all intents and purposes, are acting in exactly a similar manner to that in which we ourselves participated at the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada. We feel sorry to lose our brethren from our own Grand Lodge; we shall miss many a well-known face, but we shall feel when once we recognize them, that we shall always meet with a warm and cordial welcome when we visit the Lodges of our sister Province. Let us, therefore, exercise the great principle of our Fraternity, and judge with Charity those with whom we have worked so long, and who have conscientiously and honestly sought a separation from us.

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## THE FREEMASON'S JOURNAL.

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MONTREAL, JANUARY 15, 1870.

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### CONSISTENCY.

We have seen it stated in some book that "Consistency is a jewel of great price." Let the jewel in question be brought to the hammer just now before an audience composed of those who for some years past have been called the "most prominent Masons of Canada," and its value, we fancy, would appear to have depreciated considerably, in fact we are afraid it would be considered of no value whatever when placed in the balance with certain other jewels, commonly known as *Grand Lodge Jewels*, the possession of which entitle their temporary owners to certain powers and privileges, which are generally supposed to be exercised for the good of the craft, and not for the advancement of personal ambition, nor in the indulgence of local prejudices.

Masonry is a peculiar Institution. It assumes the right of exerting, and does exert great influence and power over its members; but it derives this great influence and power from the faithful obedience and submission of its loving subjects. When it exceeds its powers, they are destroyed altogether, and as there are no means of enforcing them, there must be a return to a just and beneficent reign before it regains its supremacy over the minds and hearts of those estranged.

We advance the maxim, that when Masonry is not consistent, it is not Masonry, as it is understood by all true Masons. Masonic Government is an arbitrary power, but democratic in form; it appoints its own rulers and renders them implicit obedience. On their opinions it forms its opinion, and their ruling on all disputed matters of government, local or general, is received as the law to be enforced; at the same time, these rulers are bound by certain landmarks which form the basis of the Constitution, and from which no departure is ever permitted or allowed. In the face of this it is expected that when rulers of the craft express an opinion on any subject, the matter will have received all the consideration possible, and that their judgment, when formed, will apply not only to the particular locality in which they

reside, but extend itself to the recommendation of the whole Fraternity alike, and be regarded by them as worthy of precedent and example.

Such being, as we believe, the ground work of all proper Masonic Government, we have been much surprised at the decisions of the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of Canada on the subject of the recent action of the Masons of this Province, in forming themselves into a Grand Lodge.

We have been familiar with the discussions and opinions given on this subject during the past four years, and we had arrived at the following conclusions:—That the Masons of this Province had a right to form a Grand Lodge of Quebec, that the Grand Lodge of Canada did no longer exist by right,—a view of the question acquiesced in by a large majority of the Fraternity in Ontario and Quebec,—that it was best to endeavour to unite all the craft in the Dominion under one government, and that in the event of this not being accomplished, it was admitted by all that no other course was left, but for the Masons of Quebec and Ontario to form themselves into separate Grand Lodges, and to divide between them *pro-rata* the funds and property of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

Our impression was, that we were perfectly justified in arriving at these conclusions by the action of the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of Canada and the opinion of the Masonic Journal devoted to their interests. Whenever the question of jurisdiction came up as in the case of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, a force of reasoning and argument was used, which eloquently placed this matter in such a light as no reasonable grounds for the opposite view seemed possible. It is with these opinions before us that an explanation of the recent action of the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of Canada is sought to be arrived at, and we confess to our utter inability to account for the complete change of opinion that must have suggested such action.

Without venturing in the present article, to seek for the reasons which have actuated those who now oppose the opinions they formerly advocated, we will lay before our readers the result of our recent examination into the decisions and opinions given on this subject during the past four years.

At the first meeting of the Grand Lodge of Canada after the passing of the Act of Confederation, the Grand Master M. W. Bro. Wm. Mercer Wilson, in his address to Grand Lodge thus directed their attention to the subject.

#### 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 now 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.

The subject was then referred to a special committee who reported having considered the subject with the following result.

"That this Committee 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 required that the present position, standing and name of this Grand Lodge be maintained; trusting that the love of union, and the 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."

The majority consisted of Past Masters Bros. Simpson and Harrington, Bro. Moffatt, P. D. D. G. M., and the Grand Master.

The minority, composed of Bro. A. A. Stevenson, D. G. M., Bro. A. Bernard, P. G. M., and Bro. J. H. Graham, D. D. G. M., offered the following resolution, but failed to carry it :

"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."

By a vote of Grand Lodge, the matter was left in abeyance, and did not again come before that body in this decisive form, although the subject engaged the attention of every Masonic gathering throughout the country. Of the opinions expressed at these meetings, we have only space to copy the following from the speech of the present Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, at a dinner given in honor of R. W. Bro. T. B. Harris, Grand Secretary at Hamilton, Ont., on the 10th Oct. 1867. In reply to the toast of the R. W. the Deputy Grand Master, (the position he then occupied in that Grand Lodge) he said :

"He was glad to be present for another reason, because he was afraid it was the last time they should all meet together. He feared that before another Anniversary there would be more than one Grand Lodge in Canada. He did not desire at this time to go into the argument on this subject, and he felt sure that if a separation came, the Brethren of Lower Canada would part from those of this province with the deepest sorrow; but the general feeling in the Province of Quebec, and in Nova Scotia, was that there should be an independent Grand Lodge in each Province. The Masons of Ontario would be able to get on very well should separation come, but those of Quebec would feel deeply the loss of their brethren in this Province."

The opinions of the "*Craftsman*," the only Masonic journal published in Canada during this period, were very decided; it acknowledged the difficulties attending a settlement of the question, but did not assume the possibility of any other result than a Grand Lodge for the Dominion, or a separation of Ontario and Quebec. We assume that the establishment of the Grand Lodges of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have the same bearing on the case as the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Quebec. What was the action of the Grand Lodge of Canada in reference to these

Grand Lodges? Immoliate recognition! We give the following extracts from the "Craftsman," on the subject of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia. In its issue of Jan. 15th, 1867, the following article appeared:

#### A BRUTUM FULMEN.

"It will be seen by our Maritime Provinces Masonic Intelligence, that the Provincial Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, under the jurisdiction of the M. W. the Grand Lodge of Scotland, have passed resolutions suspending from all Masonic privileges the members of lodges holding under the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia. We shall have something to say on this proclamation in our next issue, when we will have more space to devote to the discussion of it. In the meantime we can only urge upon our Nova Scotia brethren who, under the impression that the best interests of Masonry would be subserved by the erection of an independent Grand Lodge of their own, have seceded from the parent Grand Lodge, not to be at all alarmed about this bull of excommunication. Canadian Masons have been compelled to undergo the same trying ordeal. The Provincial Grand Lodge of this Province, at the half-yearly communication held on the 21st May, 1856, resolved "That the lodges and individual brethren under this jurisdiction are hereby strictly forbidden to hold any Masonic communication with the self-styled Grand Lodge of Canada, or any Lodge, or any individual having any connection therewith." But at a subsequent communication, that of the 8th January, 1857, this resolution was very wisely rescinded. The Grand Lodge of Canada, and the lodges and brethren connected with it, lived through the crisis, and it is now numbered among the most influential and successful Grand Lodges in the world. We beg our Nova Scotia brethren to take courage; they will live to see the day when Masons everywhere will wonder that any one could be so short sighted as to oppose the establishment of an independent Grand Lodge in that Province.

In the February number they again allude to the question in an article from which we clip the following extracts:

#### NOVA SCOTIA.

"Starn all! Back for your lives (shouted long Tom Coffin)—the animal is in his hurry."

All who are familiar with those charming tales of the sea, written by Cooper, the great American novelist, will remember the graphic description given by long Tom, of the whale in his death struggle. We were forcibly reminded of the quotation which heads this article, a few days since, on reading the bombastic thunder of a very foolish, but very harmless kind of *post mortem* effort made by a defunct body, formerly known as the Provincial Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, under Scotland. From this document it appears that this would-be august body, through some spasmodic or galvanic agency, has partially awoke from its long Rip Van Winkle slumber. It says that on the thirteenth of December last, they were made aware of the startling fact that a Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia had sprung into existence among them! and that, not feeling inclined to tolerate such an audacious interference with their supremacy, all Brethren still owing allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Scotland were forbidden under pain of suspension, from visiting such clandestine brethren, or holding any masonic intercourse with them whatever!!

The dignitaries of the new Grand Lodge are too obtuse to see the correctness of the dictum so fraternally and so gently fired at them from this masonically-spiked great-gun, and they are not yet quite prepared to admit that the verdict rendered in their case by so large and so influential a number of the masonic Grand Lodges, was an erroneous one . . . .

The day, therefore, which witnessed the birth of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, also saw the departing shadow of all other Masonic power and jurisdiction from that noble province.—The Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia is *there*, the only supreme Masonic authority. All lodges not owing allegiance to her, must be regarded as foreign lodges, and can continue to exist upon sufrance merely. This may appear as very harsh law to those members of the fraternity, who so recently occupied very different positions and status among the Craft of Nova Scotia, but they will find it sound nevertheless; and if they desire to aid in the progress and spread of Masonry, they will act wisely by enrolling themselves with as little delay as possible, under the broad banner of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia. We would at the same time, also warn those members of the Craft, who still cling to the name of a Provincial organization, that they are but grasping at a shadow, and neglecting the substance.

In conclusion we will say with reference to the proclamation which appears in our last number, that it has indeed been as Virgil expresses it,—*telum imhelle sine ictu*,—a feeble dart thrown without effect. True, it may for a time possibly excite a bitter feeling between some of the contending parties; but it can do no good to the expiring dynasty. The old lady who attempted to keep back the waves of the Atlantic with her broom, had quite as much chance of succeeding, as our would-be provincials have in their efforts at obstruction.

We could multiply these extracts *ad infinitum*, but these are sufficient for the purpose of placing before our readers the views formerly held by the Grand Masters and Grand Lodge of Canada, and their organ the "*Craftsman*," on the subject of the establishment of an independent Grand Lodge for the Province of Nova Scotia, as well as on the establishment of Grand Lodges for Ontario and Quebec.

When we consider the recent action of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in his proclamation of suspension of his old friends and brethren, who had worked with him for so long a time, and who were guided in the very act he condemns by his opinions publicly given, the subsequent action of the Grand Lodge of Canada on the same subject, and the articles which have appeared in the last two numbers of the "*Craftsman*," we may well ask, *is this consistency?* Would these eminent and distinguished brethren (especially those in this Province) take our advice on this subject, we would say, *Retreat while there is yet time*—in the words of honest Tom Coffin, quoted by the *Craftsman* in the article above referred to, we say—*Starn all! Back for your lives!!!*

In no other way can the mischief already done be remedied. In no other way can the peace of the Fraternity in this Province be secured. Let them beware of acting upon the maxim contained in the well known couplet,

"Forgiveness to the injured does belong,  
"But they ne'er pardon who have done the wrong."

The fallacy of which has been so often proved in this enlightened age.

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### THE GRAND LODGE OF QUEBEC.

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It affords us much pleasure in being able to announce, in this our first number, the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, by the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, at their Annual Communication held at the City of Washington, on the 12th inst. This act while it gives to the Grand Lodge of Quebec a recognized position among the Grand Lodges of the world, confers upon it at the same time the full powers inherent in Grand Lodges.

It now becomes the duty of those of our brethren in this Province, who have, so far, opposed the action of the Lodges who took part in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, principally on constitutional grounds, to accept the verdict thus given, and to co-operate with their brethren of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, in their endeavours to unite all the craft in this Province under one Masonic Government.

It must be a matter of great satisfaction to the brethren who took part in the formation of this Grand Lodge, to find that the principles laid down by the convention of the 20th October last, have received the sanction of the first Grand Lodge to whom they applied for recognition; and it must be even a greater satisfaction to find, that their action has met the approval of nearly all the Lodges in this Province. Our readers will have noticed the report of the installation in the City of Quebec on St. John's Day, and the recent action of Hoyle and Chateauguay Lodges. It is to be hoped that all who have not as yet given in their adherence

to the Grand Lodge of Quebec, will soon follow their example. Only a small minority of the Lodges have not as yet given in their allegiance; there only remains, we believe, one Lodge under the registry of Scotland and three Lodges under the registry of England in the City of Montreal, and one in Quebec District, four in Bedford and two in Montreal District, still retaining their connection with the Grand Lodge of Canada. We are fully convinced that these Lodges have no wish to oppose the action of their brethren, taken for the purpose of benefiting the whole craft in this Province, and now that such action has received this high sanction, we hope that, whatever differences of opinion which might have existed in reference to the advisability of the formation of a Grand Lodge, will be laid aside, and that all the Lodges will unite in a peaceable adjustment of their disputes, and looking only to the interests of the craft, and the Honour of our Great Fraternity, will in future, as they have done in the past, work together in peace, love and harmony.

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### MASONIC HALL, MONTREAL.

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We regret to have to report to our readers that the disagreement between the Trustees of the Masonic Hall, and some of the Lodges for whom they were acting, has not yet been arranged, and that the furniture and decorations of the Hall, provided at great expense by the craft here, and which have been the admiration of so many visitors, is still in possession of law officers, on a suit brought by the proprietor of the building at the request of the Trustees. We fail to see by what line of reasoning the Trustees can justify their conduct in this matter. They have not been put to any inconvenience or loss. The Lodges have notified them that they are ready at any time to pay all claims for rent, &c., and to relieve them from their responsibility if they desire it. The more we consider the matter, the more we are convinced that they have no excuse for acting as they have done, further than that of using the power delegated to them by the Lodges in the enforcement of their own peculiar views on the subject of Masonic jurisdiction. The Lodges maintain that they had the right to sever their connection with the Grand Lodge of Canada, and give in their adherence to the Grand Lodge of Quebec. The Trustees maintain that they had no such right, and that by such action they have entailed the confiscation of their property for the benefit of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

The management of the Hall for the past five years has been vested in the hands of the Room Committee, composed of one representative from each Lodge,—and this Committee, in order that no difficulties should arise between the Lodges owning the property in the Hall,—(four of whom had given in their adherence to the Grand Lodge of Quebec, while the other two retained their connection with the Grand Lodge of Canada)—passed a resolution, unanimously, that the action of the four lodges who had severed their connexion from the Grand Lodge of Canada, should in no manner interfere with the relations which had heretofore existed between them all; but that they should use the Hall as heretofore, and defray their expenses in the usual manner through the Committee. A copy of this resolution was sent to the two Trustees; and one of them, holding the high position of Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, wrote to the



Committee, and informed them that, fearing his duties as Grand Master would interfere with his duties as Trustee, he had asked to be relieved from the responsibilities of the latter office. For some reason he has changed his opinion, and endeavoured to prevent the Lodges meeting in the Hall; and though they used it for several meetings, it was not with his consent or approval.

The time arrived when it was necessary for the Lodges to call their meetings for the purposes of installation, and they hoped the trustees had come to a better understanding of their duties,—and accordingly summoned the brethren to meet as usual in the Hall; but on the Friday preceding that day the Trustees caused the property in the building to be seized by the landlord, ostensibly for rent due. By what argument they justify the course pursued, we cannot imagine; one thing is certain, the history of Freemasonry does not furnish a similar instance of departure from the well understood obligations between Trustees and the proprietors of property placed in their hands in trust.

We hope that the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Quebec will have removed any conscientious scruples entertained by the Trustees of their obligations to the Grand Lodge of Canada, and that they will at once take the proper steps to restore to the Lodges their property, and end a misunderstanding which has entailed so much scandal and dishonor on the craft.

In connection with the fact of the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Quebec by the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, we may mention that the Chairman on Foreign Correspondence of that Grand Lodge, on whose report, most probably, the act of recognition was passed, is M. W. Bro. B. G. French, of Washington, P. G. M., one of the ablest Masonic jurists in America, and whose opinions are considered by many eminent brethren as not even second to those of Dr. Mackey, the author of so many well known works on Freemasonry.

We have deemed it proper to devote all the space we could afford to the opinion of the Masonic Press in relation to the recent change of jurisdiction in this Province. We ask our readers to give the matter a careful perusal and proper consideration. Apart from the interest we all have in this subject, it is of great importance to us all to “see ourselves as others see us.”

We have authority for stating that the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec has under consideration petitions for the establishment of three new lodges in St. Francis and Bedford Districts.

**QUARRELING.**—As a Mason, you are to cultivate brotherly love, the foundation copestone, the cement and glory of this ancient Fraternity, avoiding all wrangling and quarreling, all slander and backbiting, nor permitting others to slander any honest brother, but defending his character and doing him all good offices, as far as is consistent with your honor and safety, but no further.

We must ask from our readers their patience and indulgence if, in this our first number, any inaccuracies should have crept in our columns. The time since we had determined to start, this publication has been very short, and as the setting up of the first number of a journal is always a more difficult task than that of any of the subsequent issues, we confidently promise that an improvement will be visible in future. The above will sufficiently explain the delay in our appearance, for which we trust our readers will accept our apology.

We propose in future to devote the last page *THE FREEMASON'S JOURNAL* to the places of meeting and meeting nights of the Lodges in the city of Montreal, and we trust as our space is enlarged, which we confidently hope to see ere long, to extend another column, and if requisite more, to the like for all the Lodges in the Province of Quebec.

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#### DISTRICT OF MONTREAL.

At an emergent communication of Hoyle Lodge, No. 60, C. R., held in the village of LaCelle, P. Q., on the evening of January 4, a motion was put and carried unanimously, that said Lodge do declare itself as no longer under the Registry of the Grand Lodge of Canada, but acknowledges as the only Supreme Masonic Authority in the Province of Quebec, the recently formed Grand Lodge of Quebec. Immediately following the officers elect for the ensuing year were duly installed under said Grand Lodge of Quebec by R. W. Bros. Isaacs and Murray. A most pleasant re-union took place after the lodge was closed.

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#### CITY OF QUEBEC.

The installations were performed in St. John's Lodge by Right Worshipful Brother Leggatt, the District Deputy Grand Master for Stadacona District, Registry of Quebec, in Albion and Harrington Lodges by Right Worshipful Brother Thompson, Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Registry of England, now G. L. of Quebec; and in the Royal Arch Chapter, by Excellent Companion Patton, District Grand Superintendent.

It appears that of the five Lodges in that city, the four principal, viz., the Albion. (which is more than 119 years in existence, and probably the oldest lodge out of England) St. John's, St. Andrew's and Harrington, have joined the recently formed Grand Lodge for the Province of Quebec.

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#### CHATEAUGUAY LODGE. HUNTINGDON.

An Emergent Communication of this Lodge was held on Thursday 6th inst, to consider the change in the relations of the Lodge to the Grand Lodge of Canada, consequent on the formation of G. L. of Quebec;—and it was unanimously resolved, that this Lodge sever its connection from the Grand Lodge of Canada and accept the jurisdiction of the G. L. of Quebec. We congratulate our Brethren of Chateauguay Lodge on having come to a decision on this important subject.

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GEOMETRY—Is one of the noblest of sciences, and the basis on which the superstructure of Masonry rests. It was regarded among the great and wise men of antiquity with the highest veneration. Plato, who had made considerable progress in this science, placed over the portals of his celebrated Academy,—“*Let none enter who is ignorant of Geometry.*”

### MASONIC INSTALLATION AND LEVEE.

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There were very interesting ceremonies at the Masonic Temple, Plattsburgh, N. Y., Wednesday evening, the 29th December, where the officers of the Royal Arch Chapter and Clinton Lodge [of Free accepted Masons were installed. The installation services took place in the Lodge Room, and were attended not only by the Masonic fraternity, but many ladies and gentlemen availed themselves of the courtesies extended, and witnessed with much satisfaction and delight the "secret" doings of the Brethren of the "Mystic Tie."

The installation of the lodge officers was conducted by R. W. Deputy Grandmaster S. W. Gregory, assisted by R. W. Deputy Grand Marshal S. P. Bailey. The Chapter officers were installed by R. E. Deputy Grand High Priest Z. C. Platt, assisted by R. E. Deputy Grand Marshal S. P. Bailey. Rev. Henry M'Clory, Rector of Trinity Church, and Chaplain of Clinton Lodge, performed the religious duties of the occasion, which added much to its solemnity.

Immediately after the installation, an address of power and eloquence, and withal very pleasing, was delivered by J. H. Graham, L. L. D., Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Province of Quebec. He traced the rise, progress, and benefits of Free Masonry, proving its influence on the ages. Mr. Graham is the Principal of the St. Francis College, of Richmond, Province of Quebec. He is a man of liberal and progressive views, and great versatility of talent.—*Plattsburgh Sentinel.*

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#### *From the Voice of Masonry, Chicago, Ill.*

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CANADA EAST.—We have received a copy of the Proceedings of the Convention of the representatives of twenty-one Lodges, held on the 20th and 21st days of October last, 1869, at the city of Montreal, in the Province of Quebec, for the purpose of, and also organizing the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

This body has been formed in defiance of the authority of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

The parties to this organization state that, as the Dominion of Canada is now divided into the Province of Ontario and the Province of Quebec, that all that part of Masonry included in the Province of Quebec should have a Grand Lodge of their own, and that they have so organized accordingly, and ask for recognition by other Grand Bodies.

There is, undoubtedly, a show of fair reasoning in the premises. They say, truly that every State in the Union has a Grand Lodge of its own, and that they feel justified, therefore, in demanding the like privilege, conceding to the Province of Ontario the same right it claims, asks that its claim for recognition as a Grand Lodge be cheerfully granted by all other Grand Lodges.

This is a solid reason, which cannot be disputed, and we think they have a right to what they ask, seeing that Masonry has no private purposes to serve. No doubt the extent of the domain of Canada demands two Grand Bodies for purposes of convenience.

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—All the Freemasons of Europe were summoned to meet in general convention at Paris, on the day when the Œcumenical Council met in Rome, the Grand Master of France having a singular idea that the Roman assembly menaces the Order.

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