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REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE OF THE
GRAND LODGE OF MAINE.

We have received the above report, in which the question of the legality of the G. L. of Quebec receives the most exhaustive and able discussion.

After relating the history of its formation, including the preamble and resolutions unanimously adopted, and the proper constitution of the new G. L., it proceeds to the question at issue in the following words :—

The right of the lodges in Quebec to form a Grand Lodge without the consent of the Grand Lodge of Canada—whether a majority of the lodges were represented in the Convention, or if not whether a Grand Lodge formed by less than a majority of the lodges is entitled to recognition in any event—whether the proceedings were regular—all these questions are involved. Canada denies them all: Quebec maintains them. It is not a pleasant task to examine and determine the merits in a Masonic contest, especially when our relations with both sides are of the most fraternal character. But though unpleasant, the task must be performed; for the voice of the other Grand Lodges is the only tribunal which can determine the matter. After as thorough and careful investigation, as we can possibly make, we submit the following views.

For a number of years previous to the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and until July 1, 1867, the territory over which that Grand Lodge exercised jurisdiction, formed and constituted but one Province, called "The Province of Canada," and having but one Legislature or Parliament; but by the Proclamation of the "British North American Act," on July 1, 1867, the "Province of Canada," as then existing, was "severed" into two separate and distinct Provinces, called the "Province of Quebec," and the "Province of Ontario." These Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, thus formed, were also joined (together with the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick,) into one federal union which was declared "to form and be" "The Dominion of Canada;" so that since the 1st July, 1867, the two Provinces of Ontario and Quebec have been and are as distinct and separate as the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, or as are any two States of the American Union, while the Legislature of

each Province is similar to the Legislature of each State of the same, and the Dominion Parliament is somewhat analogous to the Federal Congress of the United States.

It will be perceived from the above that the great question underlying all others in relation to the regularity of this Grand Lodge is this: When a portion of the territory in which a Grand Lodge has exclusive jurisdiction, is erected by the civil government into an independent State or Province, do the lodges therein possess the *right* to form an independent Grand Lodge? This question was, until comparatively recently, considered to be settled. It was universally conceded that the lodges do have such right. But unfortunately the question arose lately in such manner as to be connected with a political question, and of course did not receive that calm and dispassionate consideration in some quarters which masonic questions should receive, and the law, which had been well settled, was questioned. We propose, therefore, to refer to some of the precedents and the law as established by the fathers, which some of their sons would now annul.

After the revolution, it was deemed proper and necessary that, inasmuch as independent *civil* government had been established in this country, independent *masonic* governments should also be established; and the principle was then asserted that every independent State, &c., is entitled *as of right* to its own Grand Lodge, which should have exclusive jurisdiction in its own territory. Accordingly independent Grand Lodges were erected soon after the Declaration of Independence or the close of the war in all of the original States save Delaware, and in that in 1810. The principle was laid down broadly that the masons of any independent State ought not to be under the masonic government in any other State. And as States and Territories have been organized since, the same rule has in every case been applied.

As we have seen it erroneously stated that the case of West Virginia was the first in which an independent Grand Lodge has been established in territory once under the exclusive jurisdiction of another Grand Lodge without its consent, we propose to refer to some of the more prominent cases.

We learn from a history of masonry in New Hampshire, written in 1811, by the Grand Secretary, that the two Massachusetts Grand Lodges and their Grand Masters exercised jurisdiction over the lodges in that State until July 8, 1780, when deputies from the several lodges met and voted "that there be a Grand Lodge established in the State of New Hampshire, upon principles consistent with, and subordinate to the general regulations and ancient constitutions of freemasonry." No consent was asked or deemed necessary.

In 1788 and 1789 Maryland and Virginia, respectively, ceded to the United States portions of their territory to form the District of Columbia. These cessions were accepted in 1790, and in 1800 the capital was established there. In 1810 the Grand Lodge of Maryland had four lodges upon the territory ceded by Maryland, and the Grand Lodge of Virginia two lodges upon that ceded by Virginia. In December, 1810, delegates from five of these lodges met in convention and unanimously resolved "that it is right and expedient to establish and organize a Grand Lodge in and for the District of Columbia;" and on the eighth day of January following, the Grand Lodge was established, and on the nineteenth day of February, organized. All this was done without the consent or knowledge of the mother Grand Lodges. The proceedings, however, were forwarded to these Grand Lodges with a letter, in which it was said that the reasons for such proceedings would be more fully communicated after the next meeting of the convention: but it was stated they were not actuated by unfriendly motives, "but from considerations resulting from the assumption of the jurisdiction by Congress over the District of Columbia," &c. The promised communication to the mother Grand Lodges was forwarded, and we extract from it the following:

"The right and expediency of establishing a Grand Lodge in this District had for a considerable time engaged the attention of the most experienced Masons of this place. Not willing, however, to confide implicitly in their own judgments, in a matter of so much importance, *experienced masons from various parts of the United States were consulted, from the decisive nature of whose opinion the practicability of the measure appeared manifest.* And at a meeting in convention of deputies from five lodges, after mature consideration, the right and expediency was unanimously declared." * * * * * "The propriety of the measure taken was confirmed by a reference to historic facts." * * * * * "Our brethren of the Eastern States, who organized Grand Lodges previous to our revolution, under the authority of charters granted from some one of the Grand Lodges in Great Britain—after which they saw the impropriety of working under authority derived from a country having different laws, governments and interests from their own, and accordingly gave up the authority under which they had before acted.

There then being no head to resort to, the subordinate lodges of several States, by deputies appointed for that purpose, organized Grand Lodges. It is admitted that necessity urged the adoption of this measure, and that the principle was then acknowledged and has ever since been disputed, and that the lodges of each State were entitled to equal privileges. This district being composed of parts of two States and separated from them in the same degree as one State is from another, was a circumstance that received considerable weight."

From the answer of the Grand Lodge of Maryland we take the following:—

"That they have attentively read and considered the communications of the Grand Lodge in the District of Columbia, and find the same to be conformable to the ancient rules and landmarks of masonry."

Previously to 1820 Maine was as much a part of Massachusetts as Boston is now: and the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts had exclusive jurisdiction in Maine over thirty lodges: in that year Maine was admitted into the Union as an independent State. In anticipation of that event, the lodges held a convention for the purpose of forming a Grand Lodge: in their communication to the mother Grand Lodge their right to do so is distinctly asserted, but they formally asked consent and for their share of the funds. They say: "They perceive that at various periods this and other Grand Lodges have recognized the expediency of erecting a separate Grand Lodge in every independent government where a sufficient number of lodges exist." This principle was first settled by the late "Massachusetts Grand Lodge" during the war of the revolution. It was adopted by the same Grand Lodges in the year 1780, when it was determined that all charters granted without the limits of this State shall be understood to remain in force until a Grand Lodge is formed in the government where such lodges are held. And it has since been expressly sanctioned by the resolutions of Jan. 8, 1783, and admitted in practice in the subsequent erection of Grand Lodges in other States composed of lodges originally holding their charters under this Grand Lodge, or its predecessors. And there is good reason for this practice. For as every mason owes allegiance to the civil authority under which he lives as well as submission to the Grand Lodge, if the members of the latter were not amenable to the same laws with himself, a most injurious opposition might arise between his duties as a citizen and a mason." These principles were admitted by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in the following terms: "Your committee find that this Grand Lodge have acknowledged the necessity of creating separate Grand Lodges in every independent State Government where a sufficient number of lodges have rendered it expedient. This principle is a correct one. Masons are bound to submit to the laws and authority of the Government under which they live. If amenable to the Grand Lodge existing under a separate and independent republic, they might be compelled to violate the laws of the civil government, or some of their most solemn masonic obligations." These were the views of Simon Greenleaf, Charles Fox, Samuel Fessenden, Robert P. Dunlap and other eminent masons of Maine as well as the distinguished masons of Massachusetts.

At the same time the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts had exclusive jurisdiction in Maine. The following year the Chapters in Maine formed a Grand Chapter without the consent of the parent Grand Chapter, though a communication was addressed to it in advance, which was read and placed on file, and one afterwards informing them of the proceedings and tendering them grateful acknowledgments for their paternal care, &c., and wishes for prosperity, &c. This last was referred to a committee to answer.

As another illustration, we cite the fact that for more than sixty years in Massachusetts, and nearly fifty in Maine, the law has been that a lodge has exclusive jurisdiction in the town in which it is located. By division of towns and change of town lines, the question has arisen, probably a hundred times, what effect such division or change has on the exclusive jurisdiction of a lodge, and it has been uniformly held that the jurisdiction is changed accordingly. We understand the same thing has happened in other States and been settled in the same way.

When the Grand Lodge of Iowa was formed, in 1844, the Territory included all the country north of Missouri, between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and the British line—the greater part of Minnesota and the whole of Decotah. But when admitted as a State, nearly three years afterwards, its boundaries were established as they now are. We have never heard that the Grand Lodge has since claimed any exclusive jurisdiction outside of the State lines.

In 1845, Congress re-ceded to Virginia that portion of the District of Columbia which formerly belonged to Virginia. At once and *as a matter of course*, the Grand Lodge of Virginia assumed jurisdiction over it and the Grand Lodge of the District in the same manner relinquished its jurisdiction over it.

When the Territory of Idaho was created, part was taken from Washington, in which a Grand Lodge then existed. The Grand Lodge of Oregon granted a charter to a lodge in that part of Idaho which had been Washington, and the Grand Lodge of the latter complained that the act was a violation of its jurisdiction. The almost unanimous decision of the other Grand Lodges of the country was in favor of Oregon; but Washington and those who sided with her, admitted that lodges in that part of Idaho would have the right to join with others in forming the Grand Lodge of Idaho, and that when a Grand Lodge was formed in Idaho it would have exclusive jurisdiction throughout the whole Territory. While this question was under discussion the West Virginia case came up. It was unfortunate, because it was so intimately connected with a political question. Then in 1867, *for the first time since the Revolution*, the principle that lodges in an independent State have a *right* in all cases to form themselves into a Grand Lodge was denied. All the precedents had been in support of that principle, and no single instance can be found prior to that time of a decision the other way. Bro. GOCLEY started it, "single handed," to use his own expression. A few others concurred with him, while the general sentiment was the other way. It is a singular coincidence that Bro. GOCLEY and others who think with him, when pressed in the argument, have finally declared that in their opinion, West Virginia is not legally a State but remains part of Virginia. Whether this is a mere coincidence, or whether their *political* opinions have unconsciously affected their *masonic* opinions we cannot of course know. We *do* know that their present opinions are in direct conflict with an unbroken line of precedents from the Revolution to the present time. And all masonic laws are precedents ripened into customs.

This same doctrine has been applied out of the United States. The Grand Lodge of Canada was formed without the consent of the parent Grand Lodges; that it was rightly formed was declared by nearly all the American Grand Lodges. It was also applied in the cases of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the Grand Lodge of Canada was among the very first to recognize each of them. "What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander" is a homely expression, but as *true* as it is homely.

Quebec bears precisely the same relation to Canada and to Ontario, that Nova Scotia and New Brunswick bear to each of them. They all have nearly the same relation to each other that the States of the Union have, and nearly the same relation to Canada, that the States have to the United States. It is the West Virginia case over again, save that there is no question anywhere of the legality of the law dividing what was Canada into the two Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. If Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are Provinces sufficiently independent to have a Grand Lodge, Quebec also is. The Grand Lodge is located in Ontario; according to all the precedents, therefore, the lodges in Quebec had the right to form a Grand Lodge without the consent of any man, or body of men outside that Province.

Have they proceeded regularly to do so? From the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Canada, held at Montreal, we obtain the Canada view of the matter. The Grand Master, denying the right of the Quebec brethren to form a Grand Lodge, adopted the most energetic measures to prevent it. A call was issued for a Convention to form the Grand Lodge, and the Grand Master of Canada issued an edict suspending all (save one) whose names were appended to the call; and another edict forbidding any of the Brethren attending the Convention; and another edict suspending a lodge for appointing delegates to the Convention. Now if the Quebec Brethren had the right to form a Grand Lodge, they had the right to take the necessary measures to do so, and they could not be deprived of those rights by the Grand Master of Canada; we are, therefore, compelled to hold that these edicts were beyond the authority of M. W. Grand Master STEVENSON, and, therefore, absolutely void. A suspension of a lodge by his Deputy for the same reason was void.

The Convention was properly called, and seems to have followed almost literally the proceedings in forming the Grand Lodge of Canada. The proceedings of the latter were evidently taken as a copy. In one respect there was a diversity. The Grand Master of Quebec was installed by the Senior Past Master present. We had supposed there was no doubt of the propriety of this. But we have seen the regularity of this

Grand Lodge has been questioned because its Grand Master was not installed by a Grand Master, or Past Grand Master. The idea probably grew out of the "Past Grand Master's Degree," known in some jurisdictions. But if Quebec is irregular in this, she is in good company. The same, or a similar mode of proceeding, was adopted in forming the Grand Lodges of New Hampshire, 1789, Ohio, 1808, District of Columbia, 1811, Indiana, 1818, Alabama, 1821, Florida, 1830, Texas, 1837, Illinois, 1840, Wisconsin, 1843, Iowa, 1844, Oregon, 1851, Minnesota, 1853, Kansas, 1855, Washington, 1858, Colorado, 1861, Nevada, 1865, Nova Scotia, 1866, Idaho, 1867, New Brunswick, 1868, and others! We reckon this list of precedents settles that question.

Though there are some precedents in the formation of masonic Grand Bodies the other way, we are inclined to hold that it is essential that a majority of the lodges must concur in the formation of a Grand Lodge, and the question still remains, "was the Grand Lodge of Quebec formed by a majority of the lodges in that Province?"

There were thirty-nine lodges in the Province. Twenty-one were represented: one of them has since repudiated the action of its representative, and adheres to the Grand Lodge of Canada. The Grand Master of Canada insists that other lodges did the same: but as we find that twenty of the twenty-one still adhere to Quebec, his information must have been erroneous. At the present time *twenty-five* of the *thirty-nine* bear allegiance to the new Grand Lodge. Of the remaining fourteen, one is a Scotch lodge, two are English, and eleven Canadian; twenty-one of the thirty-two Canadian lodges, three of the five English lodges, and one of the two Scotch lodges are united in the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

In view of these facts we can come to no other conclusion than that the Grand Lodge of Quebec is entitled to recognition. It has already been recognized by the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. The longer the quarrel goes on, the more bitter it will become. The sooner the other Grand Lodges pronounce upon the question the better. It has been suggested that they be left to arrange the matter themselves: but experience shows that such questions are settled by the opinion of other Grand Lodges. Though it grieves us sorely to do anything contrary to the wishes of our Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Canada, yet, being fully convinced they are wrong, we are bound to say so, and to respond to the appeal of our Quebec brethren. We regret that the separation could not have been effected amicably: and we trust that after other Grand Lodges have expressed their opinion, the example of Virginia and West Virginia will be followed.

We shall offer in Grand Lodge a resolution, that the request of the Grand Lodge of Quebec for recognition and fraternal correspondence be granted.

We learn since, that the Grand Lodge of Maine, by a unanimous vote, extended fraternal recognition to the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, Q. R. (LATE 440, E. R.)

We have already informed our readers of the action taken by this Lodge in transferring its allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Quebec. In doing so, we little dreamed that it would become our painful duty to record any dissatisfaction among the brethren of that Lodge at the action taken. After having duly appointed delegates to attend the "Convention," with instructions to report back to the Lodge, and after allowing the first blush of excitement to pass away, in order that an unbiassed judgment might be brought to bear on the question, and having, after repeated consultations among the officers and members of the "permanent committee," brought forward in a very full Lodge—exceeding the average attendance—the report of said delegates, recommending their adherence to the Grand Lodge of Quebec, which report, after a very full and able discussion, was almost unanimously

adopted—only some three or four voting nay—we did not expect that such a feeling of decided hostility to the action of those who for years have been allowed to conduct the business, and who could only have the best interests of their Lodge at heart, would have manifested itself in the way which has been done by a few of the older members aided by some of the younger initiates, all of whom have shown by their injudicious, and we venture to affirm, unmasonic conduct, their utter incapacity for wielding the *Gavel* or applying the overseer's *Square*.

But our surprise at the action of these discontented brethren, sinks into insignificance before the utter astonishment which takes possession of us, at the announcement that a distinguished brother, occupying the honorable position of a Past Provincial Grand Master of England, not only encouraged those malcontent brethren in their opposition to the action of the Lodge, but has even gone so far as to issue to them a dispensation authorizing them to meet as St. George's Lodge, No. 440, E. R., has installed their nominee as Worshipful Master, (a brother not constitutionally eligible for that office,) and otherwise sanctioned their working as a regularly warranted Lodge, they having accepted propositions and initiated candidates under his authority. All this has been done too—if we are credibly informed—with the approbation, or at least with the knowledge, of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, who, if his pretensions on behalf of his Grand Lodge are as sincere as they are dogmatic, must have a singularly felicitous way of adapting his ideas of masonic comity to suit times, places and circumstances.

So far as we have been able to gather, the brethren who have thus refused to abide by the decision of their Lodge, are a few of the older members, who have seldom of late years manifested any interest in the working of the Lodge, and who allow their ultra-conservative notions about remaining true to the parent Grand Lodge to so cloud their judgment that they cannot perceive any good to be derived from a perfect Masonic Unity in one Province or State, embracing not *nominal* but *absolute supremacy*. These have succeeded in inducing several of the younger members of the Lodge to join them, brethren not only inexperienced in the craft, but who have never manifested any particular desire to understand either its internal economy or its allegorical instructions. To these, may be added a few disappointed office seekers, those who having been found unworthy of the confidence of their brethren, seek eagerly through this opportunity, a chance denied to them hitherto, of becoming rulers in the craft. Of such is the new Lodge, and any one with a full knowledge of the nature of the material of which it is composed, might well question the propriety of entrusting in such hands the rearing of a masonic temple, of which the craft might say, "it is a goodly structure."

But irrespective of the quality of the material, or the propriety of giving it a place in the craft, we must consider the very questionable, if not altogether illegal exercise of power on the part of R. W. Bro. Badgley, in granting under any circumstances whatever, a dispensation for a new Lodge, or, if he likes it better, for the revival of a duly constituted and warranted Lodge, under the Registry of England. It must be noticed, however, that the latter ground is utterly untenable for the warrant of St. George's Lodge is still held by the W. M. last obligated to preserve it, and he is supported by all his officers and a very large proportion of the members, and the W. M. of the new Lodge is simply a Master Mason taken from the floor of the Lodge, and dubbed a W. M. by one assuming the power so to do. We have no personal quarrel with R. W. Bro. Badgley; the writer is not conscious of ever having seen the R. W. Bro., certainly, no masonic intercourse ever took place between them; we, therefore, disclaim all interested motives in reviewing this subject. We found our opinions on public and authentic reports, and seek only that right shall prevail between brother and brother. Our hearsay knowledge of R. W. Bro. Badgley, leads us to form a high estimate of him as one who has in years gone by done good service to the craft, and who still enjoys the confidence and esteem of many distinguished brethren in this city, but we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that he has most unwarrantably overstepped his prerogative in granting the dispensation above referred to. He seems to have forgotten that years have gone past since the halo of "office" surrounded him—that he voluntarily resigned the position of Provincial Grand Master, and that while the Grand Lodge of England accepted of that resignation, they declined to appoint a successor, preferring to allow the Lodges under her authority to hold direct communication. In support of this, we need only look back to the last December Communication of the Grand Lodge of England, where a discussion arose on an appeal from certain brethren of this same St. George's Lodge, No. 440, against the action of the Lodge in their case, when the following reference to Bro. Badgley is made by Bro. Havers when speaking on this question, "that this appeal would have come before G. L. long ago, but that "it was imaginnd that Bro. Badgley was still the D. G. M. for Montreal; "he, however, ceased to be so for many years; the papers were sent to him "and had been mislaid." Again, in writing to the Secretary of St. George's Lodge, No. 440, R. W. Bro. John Hervey, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England, under date 5th August, 1869, says in a P. S., "The Hon. Wm. Badgley has not been District Grand Master of Montreal for several years past," evidence sufficient here, we take it, to show that no power whatever to act as he has done was vested in R. W. Bro. Badgley. We may add that rumors have been afloat that authority was received by cable telegram empowering the above action, but such a *canard* is too absurd

to receive the slightest credence. The Grand Lodge of England knows too well the *etiquette* of Masonic Correspondence to decide for or against any section of her children on any *ex parte* statement, and we have no doubt whatever, when the real facts of the case are laid before it, that not only will the action of Bro. Badgley be cancelled, but that the decision of St. George's Lodge arrived at after such mature deliberation be accepted as for the best interests of all concerned, and the brethren who for the present are dissatisfied with the proceedings, be recommended cheerfully and fraternally to accept of the wishes of the majority of their brethren, and look to the Grand Lodge of Quebec as their legal head and protector. So mote it be.

G. L. OF IRELAND.

We learn from the proceedings at the last communication of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of Ireland, held at the city of Dublin, the following resolution was passed, viz :

"That as the Province of Quebec is in the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, which Grand Lodge is recognized by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the Grand Lodge of Ireland cannot recognize the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec."

The above resolution speaks for itself, and might properly be termed the *first genuine Masonic Irish Bull*.

The wording of it plainly indicates from what quarter the information came on which it is based. All authorities declare that separate States and Provinces have the inherent *right* of a G. L. of their own; and there can be no doubt our Irish brethren concur in the ruling that has legalized nearly every G. L. in the U.S., but unfortunately for them they have merely followed the absurd resolution penned Dec. 1st last by the so-called "Grand Lodge of Canada."

We are fully convinced that when they arrive at a proper understanding on the subject they will rescind a resolution giving to a Grand Lodge according to *its will* supremacy for ever over two provinces.

Suppose Ireland divided into North and South Ireland, can it be doubted for one moment but that they would have two Grand Lodges, in case either part *so willed it*; then why, in the name of common sense, can any G. L. refuse this right to Quebec. We repeat, that lack of information on the subject has led them into this most palpable error.

AT REST.

Died, on Friday, 15th April, Worshipful Brother Geo. H. Monk, Past Master Zetland Lodge, R.Q., (late No. 21, C.R.)

Our deceased brother filled several offices in Zetland Lodge, and succeeded R.W. Bro. Isaacson as Master of the lodge in 1867. He was a member of the Bar of this Province, and *Seigneur* of the Seignior of Ste. Therese. Of unassuming manner and deportment, he was more appreciated by his friends and the members of his lodge than by his mere acquaintances. His many good qualities and zeal for our time honored institution will cause his memory to remain *green* in the hearts of his many friends.

We have also the melancholy duty of recording the decease of V. W. Bro. Wm. Armstrong, I. P. M. of Zetland Lodge of this city

About nine months ago, he left for St. Augustine, Florida, with a view to his recovery from that fell disease, consumption. He was soon joined there by his wife, who remained with him until his decease, but notwithstanding her care, and the salubriousness of the climate, he continued to sink, until recovery could not be hoped for, and towards the end of last month he started to return home by easy stages, in order to lay his bones amongst his kindred, and greet his children once more. Fate, however, ordered it otherwise, for after stopping some time at Jacksonville, Ga., he proceeded to Savannah, and after lingering there for a few weeks, quietly resigned his soul to the G. A. O. T. U.

It is pleasing to record that the mystic tie bound fast and kind friends to the otherwise stranger, surrounding him with every care that human aid could give, and at his death giving to his remains a sepulchre amongst those of his brethren who had gone before him.

The kind brethren of Solomon's Lodge, Savannah, organized and carried out the order of the funeral—which is reported to have been the largest seen for many a day in that city—and interred his remains with Masonic honors in their own lot No. 1 in Laurel Grove Cemetery.

Peace to their Ashes.

THE FREEMASONS' JOURNAL.

MONTREAL, MAY 15, 1870.

THE MASONIC HALL TRUSTEES.

We have received a number of letters from subscribers in different parts of the Dominion, requesting us to publish the full particulars relative to the difficulty between the Lodges and the Masonic Hall Trustees of this city, and having made frequent allusion to this subject, we deem it best to place before our readers, a correct statement of the case, in order that they may see that our remarks on the subject were fully justified.

In the early part of the year 1865, six Lodges in this city, entered into an agreement to lease from Mr. Muir, a portion of the building on Place d'Armes, now known as the Masonic Hall—to be used as a Lodge Room, &c. The Rooms were furnished, and the cost of the furniture, fixtures, decorations, &c., was paid by the Lodges in equal proportions, amounting to about \$3,000, or \$500 for each Lodge. Bros. Stevenson and Irwin, both of St. George's Lodge, R. C., offered themselves as security to the proprietor of the building for the payment of the rent, and the lease was executed to them, and all the furniture, &c., placed in their names. This, in the customary manner with Freemasons Lodges, placed them in the position of Trustees, responsible to the Lodges for the safety, &c., of the furniture; and the Lodges agreed to protect them from any loss. The management and control of the Hall, was, by mutual agreement, placed in the hands of a committee, composed of one

representative from each of the six Lodges, who were to arrange the management of the Hall, and collect the expenses of the same from the Lodges *pro-rata*.

This arrangement worked well, and continued in full force, from that time (1865) to the month of October last, at which time four of the six lodges severed their connection with the Grand Lodge of Canada, and gave in their adherence to the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

In order that no differences should arise between the Lodges, now divided into two conflicting jurisdictions, a meeting of the Committee was called to consider the question. The meeting was held on the 23rd October last, there were present representatives from five of the six Lodges interested and after some discussion it was moved by

Bro. Doyle, seconded by Bro. Parsons, that this committee recognizing the change that has lately taken place in connection with the position of the several Lodges forming this Committee by the action of the Convention lately held in this city consider it advisable in the interests of all concerned, that the relations of the different Lodges, in so far as relates to the Masonic Hall, Place d'Armes, and the furniture and effects therein, be not in any way altered by such action. *Carried unanimously.*

Moved by Bro. Doyle, seconded by Bro. Urquhart, that in view of the change which has lately taken place, in relation to Freemasonry in this Province, we, the Room Committee and Representatives of the several Lodges formerly, and some now actually under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, deem it the duty of this Committee, to advise the Trustees of the Masonic Hall, Place d'Armes, that we, for our several Lodges, hold said Lodges responsible for their proportion of the usual expenses attendant on the carrying on of said Lodge Room as heretofore. *Carried unanimously.*

Moved by Bro. Murray and seconded by Bro. Doyle, that a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be placed in the hands of the Trustees of the Masonic Hall, Place d'Armes, with a respectful request that they would reply by Tuesday next, whether the same will meet with their approval. *Carried unanimously.*

A copy of these resolutions were ordered to be sent to the Trustees, to which Bro. Irwin returned no written reply, but declared to the representatives that he would be entirely guided by the resolutions of the committee, and would not interfere with the Room so long as the rent, &c., was duly paid, and he was secured from loss. Bro. Stevenson sent the following reply, which speaks for itself.

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,

"The resolutions adopted at a meeting of the Room Committee, held on 23rd inst., which you placed in my hands yesterday, have received my most careful consideration. You will readily understand that my position as Trustee is greatly complicated from the fact of my also holding the office of Grand Master. While as Trustee, I do not desire to place myself in a hostile attitude towards any of the parties who have heretofore occupied the room, yet as Grand Master, I must be equally careful to refrain from any commission of any act *as a Trustee* which would compromise my position *as Grand Master*. Under these circumstances, I have considered it to be my duty to endeavour to be released from the Trusteeship of the room, and have to-day, made the necessary application to that effect. As soon as possible after receipt of reply, I will communicate to you the result for the information of the Room Committee. Hoping that the propriety of this course will be generally concurred in."

I remain yours faithfully and fraternally,

WM. MACKENZIE, Chairman R. Committee.

A. A. STEVENSON, Trustee.

Every one was satisfied with the result, and no trouble was anticipated till notice was given that the Grand Lodge of Canada would hold a special

communication in the Hall, on the 1st December and following days. The days named were those on which "Royal Albert" and other Lodges were accustomed to use the Hall for their Regular Communications, and as the December meeting was the time appointed for the annual election of officers, reception of reports, &c., the representative of Royal Albert Lodge, called on the Chairman of the Room Committee, who informed him that he had not authorized the Grand Lodge of Canada to use the Hall on that day. The W. M. of the Royal Albert Lodge then wrote to the Chairman of the Committee, that he had endeavoured to get another room for the meeting of his Lodge, but had been unable to make any arrangements, and in consequence, he would be obliged to insist on the right of his Lodge to use the Hall as usual. After several interviews, and vain endeavours to make arrangements for the use of the room for an hour or two on the day named, the W. M. of Royal Albert received the following communication.

Montreal, 26th November, 1869.

MY DEAR SIR AND V. W. BROTHER,

In reply to your favours of 17th and 24th instant, respecting the right of your Lodge to meet in the Masonic Hall on Wednesday Evening, 1st December, I have to state that the Trustees have taken the room out of the Committee's hands, and it remains for you to settle the matter with them. I regret the delay in my reply, but was only notified by one of the Trustees of the above this morning.

I am, &c., very truly,

W. MACKENZIE, *Chairman R. Committee.*

H. M. ALEXANDER, Esq., W. M. Royal Albert Lodge.

On receipt of this, the W. M. of Royal Albert Lodge notified the Trustees as well as the Grand Secretary of the G. L. of Canada, that having the right, he would direct his Lodge to meet in the room as usual. The Royal Albert Lodge held their meeting in the Masonic Hall; the G. L. of Canada held their Communication in St. Paul's Lodge Room.

The second Monday in December being the time appointed for the meeting of Kilwinning Lodge, the W. M. of that Lodge, with a deputation from the Lodge, waited upon the Trustees in order to make arrangements for the use of the room for that evening and in future. Bro. Stevenson informed the deputation that he considered that all the Lodges which had joined the G. L. of Quebec had entailed the confiscation of their property. That he intended to take possession of the property in the name of the G. L. of Canada, and refused to recognize their right to meet in the Hall or use the property. Bro. Irwin also informed them that such was his decision. Kilwinning Lodge, however, insisted on their right to meet in the Hall, and finding the doors locked had them opened, and conducted their business as usual. The next day locks were placed on the doors by the trustees, and they declared that no lodge connected with the G. L. of Quebec should meet in the Hall, and that they would not acknowledge their right to any property therein contained.

The Lodges now proceeded to see if they could enforce their right to the Hall by law, but previous to this, they sent communications to the Trustees, that they were ready at once to pay all claims and arrears due by them for the use of the room. Kilwinning Lodge further informed the Trustees that it was ready to pay all claims up to the time of the expiry of the lease, viz: 1875. Seeing that the Trustees were determined to pay no attention to their demands, they called in the assistance of eminent counsel,

and were informed that they had a right to proceed and remove all their furniture and property from the Hall.

The subject had now become town-talk, and was the cause of much scandal; and the representatives of the Lodges, not being desirous of proceeding to extreme measures, nor actuated by pecuniary motives, but only desirous of upholding their right, declined to take the extreme course directed, and while they were considering the next best thing to do, the Trustees caused the proprietor of the building to seize the furniture for arrears of rent, which they refused to receive from the Lodges, or pay to the landlord. A formal protest and demand for the return of the property, or its value was now made on the Trustees, to which they returned no reply. The property was advertised for sale by public auction, and as the whole claim on the property was only about \$75, the Lodges determined to purchase the property and retain the Hall, leaving the Trustees to do what they pleased with the money realized from the sale. Now comes the most disgraceful part of the whole transaction. It seems that the water rate, amounting to about \$20, had not been paid, and the city has the right to come in before any other seizure or claim, and collect its dues, without the formality of advertising in the city papers, the notice of sale being only required to be posted on a board at the City Hall, which in this case simply amounted to no notice at all. Accordingly, an arrangement seems to have been made between the Trustees, the Corporation Bailiff and others interested, and one afternoon, some days before the time advertised for the sale for rent, the Bailiff repaired to the Hall, accompanied by the Trustees, the former Chairman of the Room Committee, and some few others; and without any notice proceeded to sell the furniture, &c., all of which, of the value of \$3,000, was sold to a *Bro.* Walters for about \$20, sufficient to cover the Corporation claim; and this *gentleman* now holds all the property by virtue of the sale. The Trustees had previously solemnly pledged themselves that no sale of the furniture would take place without due notice of the same being given to the representatives of the Lodges; and this is how their pledged word of honour was kept. We leave our readers to judge if our comments in previous numbers were justified by these facts; and we blush with shame at having to record such dishonourable transactions, of men, who from their position in the Fraternity, should have endeavoured to protect its honour, but who have by their conduct, brought disgrace on the order of Freemasonry.

The Lodges, thus deprived of their property, have referred the whole matter to Grand Lodge, and are waiting its decision before they proceed to further measures for the recovery of their property

OFFICIOUS MEDDLERS.

It is a cause of regret that the discussions consequent on the arrangement of the difficulties existing amongst the Masons hailing respectively from the Grand Lodges of Quebec and Canada, are not confined to the fraternity alone, and it is to be deeply deplored that our family quarrel should be made the subject of conversation outside the order entailing, as it does a considerable amount of obloquy on the institution. To the fullest discussion of the general principles involved there can perhaps be no objection, as those prin-

ciples must necessarily engage the attention of Grand Lodges throughout the world, and the cause of *right* and *justice* can receive nothing but benefit from such a discussion. But we strongly protest against the conduct of those who soil and be-spatter the name of masonry by dragging it into any of those questionable proceedings, which have disgraced the recent "double shuffle," in connection with the Masonic Hall in this city. We hear it frequently asserted that such a course would not be followed by any one calling himself an honest man, and consequently that masonry cannot be the grand institution it is represented to be when brethren will act towards brethren as has been done in this instance.

We reply that it is not the institution that should be blamed or even named in connection with such a disreputable transaction. No, masonry does not instruct its votaries to take advantage of legal quirks and quibbles in order to obtain possession of that which belongs to others, neither is it a precept of the order that the "end justifies the means." What it does teach is entirely the reverse of this, and when masonry is prostituted by being named in connection with such transactions as the one above alluded to, all who have the welfare and good name of the institution at heart, must hang their heads in shame and sorrow at the deep insult offered to it.

Again there is a certain class of officious meddlers who seem to have nothing to do but running round open mouthed vainly endeavouring to frighten some of our brethren who have not given the matter sufficient attention, with all sorts of silly and absurd threats, and we have it on the best of information that some of this class have gone further and tried to prevent an intending applicant for admission to a Quebec Lodge, from entering into it on the grounds that such Lodges have not the right to make Masons, and that Masons made in such Lodges will never receive recognition from the G. L. of C. They utterly ignore the fact that the G. L. of Q. is already acknowledged as such by the G. L. of the District of Columbia and the G. L. of Maine, and that the weight of opinion thus far is over-whelmingly in favor of the G. L. of Quebec.

What can be thought of the man who in the face of events, plainly tending to this consummation, will yet deceive one and all with whom he is brought into contact, and even go out of his way to utter statements which have not the semblance of truth, we leave to our readers to determine, but we again protest against the name of Masonry being used as an excuse for such actions, and unhesitatingly assert that in our mind, prejudice and self opinion is the lever which animates such conduct, and that Masonry is only made the scapegoat of this very reprehensible Masonic crime.

Let us rather wait patiently for the judgment that must some day be rendered, should be the feeling of both parties, and we especially appeal to our brethren of the Quebec G. L. to follow this admonition. They, at any

rate, should be magnanimous enough to wait this decision. Never were the words "coming events cast their shadows before," more appropriately used than in connection with the treatment we are receiving from those who are at present in the position of judges on the legality of the formation of the G. L. of Quebec.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

We call attention to the advertisement of the Printing Office in connection with this Journal. We can confidently recommend it to the notice of our country brethren. The office contains every facility for turning out neat and attractive work on the shortest notice, and especial attention is paid to all kinds of printing required for Masonic Lodges. The prices charged are moderate, while the work performed is in every way first class. We advise our brethren requiring any kind of printing done to satisfy themselves as to the excellency of the work by sending their orders in.

The manufacturing establishment of John Street, which appears in our advertising columns, is the largest of the kind in this city. We had the pleasure of witnessing his handicraft a short time since; the Jewels of the newly established Order of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine being prepared by him. They are specimens of the highest order of mechanical skill, and are a sure guarantee that any thing he may be intrusted with will receive the best skill and attention it is possible to give it, and we venture promise that the utmost satisfaction will be experienced on the beauty of the work performed.

ENGLAND.

We have received **THE FREEMASON** (London) of April 23rd. It contains a leading editorial (nearly three columns) of great ability, in favor of the M. W. the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

The Prince of Wales is expected shortly to take the Degrees of the the Temple and Malta.

Last Thursday evening, all the Rose Croix Masons throughout the world participated in the mystic banquet of the season. The Paschal Lamb was emblematically slain, and the lights were extinguished and not to be re-lit until after Easter Sunday.

It is in accordance with the genius of Freemasonry for Masonic officers to retire to perfect equality with their brethren when their official functions have ceased.

The Rev. A. L. Blackford, missionary in Rio Janeiro, says that nearly every Brazilian who wishes to be thought respectable belongs to the Masonic Order, and that even the priests are Masons, in spite of the Pope's excommunications.

LODGES, CHAPTERS AND ENCAMPMENTS IN THE
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

District of Montreal, City of Montreal.

- Elgin Lodge, R S—Thos Alcock, W M; Thos Young, Sec; meets in British Masonic Chambers, Notre Dame Street, first Monday in each Month.
- Lodge of Antiquity, R C—John Urquhart, W M; Richard Rowe, Sec; meets in Masonic Hall, Place d'Armes, first Thursday in each month.
- * Montreal Kilwinning, R Q—J Wilson, W M; W H Hall, Sec; meets in Masonic Hall, Place d'Armes, second Monday in each month.
- Mount Royal Lodge, R—Chas Storer W M; John Robson, Sec; meets in Masonic Hall, Place d'Armes, second Tuesday in each month.
- * Royal Albert Lodge, R Q—Henry M Alexander, W M; J S Ferguson, Sec; meets in Masonic Hall, Place d'Armes, first Wednesday in each month, from September to May inclusive.
- St. Paul's Lodge, R E—W H Hutton, W M; Frank Bond, Sec; meets in their Lodge Room, St. Lawrence Hall, second Tuesday in each month, from November to May inclusive.
- St. George's Lodge, R C—Wm Mackenzie, W M; Thomas J Barrett, Sec, meets in Masonic Hall, Place d'Armes, third Tuesday in each month.
- St. George's Lodge, R Q—W E Coquillette, W M; G A Sargison, Sec; meets in British Masonic Chambers, Notre Dame Street, third Tuesday in each month
- St. Lawrence Lodge, R E—F R Clarke, W M, Wm Jolly, Secretary; meets in British Masonic Chambers, Notre Dame Street, first Tuesday in each month
- * Victoria Lodge, R Q—J T McMinn, W M; R W Bro A Murray, Sec; meets in Masonic Hall, Place d'Armes fourth Monday in each month
- * Zetland Lodge, R Q—M Doyle, W M; Jas Cleghorn, Sec; meets in Masonic Hall, Place d'Armes, second Thursday in each month
- * These Lodges being refused their own Hall, meet in the British Masonic Chambers, Notre Dame St.

- Chateauguay Lodge, R Q—Rev W C Clarke, W M; S. McDonell, Sec; meets at Huntingdon on second Tuesday in each month
- Hoyle lodge, R Q—J P Featherstone, W M; Jas A Hume, Sec; meets at Lacolle, on second Tuesday in each month

CHAPTERS.

- Carnarvon Chapter, C R—F Montague Sowdon, 1st Prin Z; Chas Stratton, Scribe E, meets in Masonic Hall, Place d'Armes, third Thursday in February, May, August and November
- Mount Horeb Chapter, C R—Richard Handsley, 1st Prin. Z; H Le Cappelain, Scribe E; meets in British Masonic Chambers, Notre Dame Street, second Wednesday in each month
- St Paul's Chapter, R E—J Ogilvy Moffatt, 1st Prin. Z; C R Girdwood, M D, Scribe E; meets in St. Paul's Lodge Room, St Lawrence Hall, on

ENCAMPMENT.

- Richard Cœur de Lion Encampment—A A Stevenson, Em. Commander; W Bathgate, Registrar; meets in Knight Templars Hall, Great St James Street, on

STADACONA DISTRICT.
City of Quebec.

- Albion Lodge, R Q—Jno Alexander, W M; Wm Miller, Sec. Second Friday in each month
- Harrington Lodge, R Q—S J Brownstein, W M; H Hughes, Sec. Third Thursday in each month
- St Andrew's Lodge, R Q—C Judge, W M; P White, Sec; first Wednesday in each month
- St John's Lodge, R Q—Christr. Staveley, W M; P J Brady, Sec; second Wednesday in each month
- Quebec Garrison Lodge, R C—W Winn, W M; H G Mead, Sec; first Monday in each month

CHAPTER.

- Stadacona Chapter, R C—C Staveley, 1st Prin. Z; W J Paterson, Scribe E
- The above Lodges and Chapter meets in the Masonic Chambers, in the Masonic Hall, Lewis Street, Quebec

80 *Lodges, Chapters and Encampments in the P. of Q.*

- Sheewenngan Lodge, R C—W T Rickaby, W M ; J L Clair, Sec ; meets at Three Rivers ; second Wednesday in each month
 The Milton Lodge, R R, U D—G O Tyler, W M ; , Sec ; meets at Three Rivers, first Wednesday in each month
 Tuscan Lodge, R Q, Levis—John Breaky, W M ; Thos Mackie, Sec ; meets at Levis, first Thursday in each month

BEDFORD DISTRICT.

- Prevost Lodge, R Q, Dunham—G H Shufelt, W M, Thos F Wood, Sec ; meets at Dunham, Tuesday on or before full moon every month
 Dorchester Lodge, R C, St Johns—R P McGinnis, W M ; E R Smith, Sec ; meets at St Johns, first Tuesday in each month
 Nelson Lodge, R Q, Philipsburgh—E A Bourret, W M ; P E Luke, Sec ; meets at Philipsburgh, Thursday on or before full moon, every month
 Stanbridge Lodge, R Q, Stanbridge—Lastin Snyder, W M ; N V Bryan, Sec ; meets at Stanbridge, Wednesday on or before full moon, every month
 Clarenceville Lodge, R Q, Clarenceville—W M Macfee, W M ; C W Beerwort, Sec ; meets at Clarenceville, third Thursday in each month
 Browne Lodge, R Q, West Farnham—G H Kemp, W M ; H Bowker, Sec ; meets at West Farnham, Friday on or before full moon, every month.
 St John's Lodge, R Q, Mansonville—L C Moor, W M ; Sec ; meets at Mansonville, Wednesday before full moon every month.
 Royal Canadian Lodge, R C, Sweetsburgh—E Racicot, W M ; Henry Rose, Sec ; meets at Sweetsburgh, second Wednesday in each month
 Frelighsburgh Lodge, R Q, Frelighsburgh—G R Marvin, W M ; E E Spencer, Sec ; meets at Frelighsburgh, Monday on or before full moon every month
 Shefford Lodge, R C, Waterloo—J E Davies, W M ; Henry Hurst, Sec ; meets at Waterloo, first Monday in each month
 Yamaska Lodge, R Q, Granby—T Amyrauld, W M ; G Vittie, Sec ; meets at Granby, first Wednesday in each month
 Brome Lake Lodge, R C, Knowlton—Horace D Pickel, W M ; Thomas A Knowlton, Sec ; meets at Knowlton.
 Abercorn Lodge, R Q, U D—H L Jacquays, W M ; , Sec ; meets at Abercorn, of each month.
 Corner Stone Lodge, R Q, U D—E H Goff, W M ; , Sec ; meets at Nelsonville, of each month

CHAPTERS.

- Prevost Chapter, Dunham—Edson Kemp 1st Prin. Z ; Stevens Baker, Scribe E ; meets at Dunham
 Dorchester Chapter, Waterloo—W G Parmelee, 1st Prin. Z ; F E Fourdrinier, Scribe E ; meets at on

ST. FRANCIS DISTRICT.

- Golden Rule Lodge, R Q, Stanstead—H M Honey, W M ; H C Hyatt, Sec ; meets at Stanstead, Tuesday on or before full moon every month
 Victoria Lodge, R Q, Sherbrooke—H R Becket, W M ; A D Bostwick, Sec ; meets at Sherbrooke, second Tuesday in each month
 St Francis Lodge, R Q, Richmond—M M Tait, W M ; E Cleveland, Sec ; meets at Richmond, first Thursday in each month
 Ascott Lodge, R Q, Lennoxville—J Addie, W M ; Frs Bennets, Sec ; meets at Lennoxville, Monday on or before full moon every month
 Ashlar Lodge, R Q, Coaticook—W Sleeper, W M ; N W Thomas, Sec ; meets at Coaticook, first Wednesday in each month
 Doric Lodge, R Q, Danville—Timothy Leet, W M ; William Boutelle, Sec ; meets at Danville, Wednesday on or before full moon every month

CHAPTER.

- Golden Rule Chapter, Sherbrooke—J H Graham, L L D, 1st Prin Z ; W Farewell jr, Scribe E

ENCAMPMENT.

- Sussex Encampment and Priory, Stanstead—W B Colby, Emat. Com. ; J H Graham, Lieut. Gen. ; Geo D Wyman, Registrar

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