

PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE GRAND LODGE
Of Ancient
Free and Accepted Masons
OF CANADA,
From its Formation, on the 10th day of October, 5855,
TO THE
Second Grand Annual Communication,
HELD AT
THE CITY OF MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, 9th JULY, 5857.

Ordered to be read in all Lodges and Preserved.

ADDRESS:
WILLIAM MERCER WILSON, G. M., SIMCOE, C. W.
THOMAS B. HARRIS, GRAND SECRETARY, HAMILTON, C. W.

HAMILTON:
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—
1857.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONVENTION
OF
Free and Accepted Masons,
HELD AT
THE CITY OF HAMILTON, C.W.,

On the 10th day of October, 5855.

At a Convention of Delegates from the Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, held at the Masonic Hall, Hamilton, on Wednesday, the 10th day of October, 5855, in conformity with a summons issued under the following Resolutions passed at a Meeting of Masons, held at the Clifton House, Niagara Falls, the 19th day of July, 5855,

When it was RESOLVED:

That a Convention of Delegates be held at Hamilton on the 2nd Wednesday in October next, for the purpose of considering the expediency of establishing an Independent Grand Lodge of Canada, and to proceed with such matters as may be deemed most desirable for the benefit of Masonry in this Province.

It was likewise RESOLVED:

That the Secretary be instructed to address a communication, embodying the foregoing Resolution, to every Lodge in the Province, inviting and urging upon them to be properly represented at that Convention.

The following Lodges were duly represented by their properly qualified Officers :

Brockville Lodge	Brockville.
Niagara Lodge.....	Niagara.
Union Lodge	Grimsby.
Norfolk Lodge.....	Simcoe.
Nelson Lodge.....	Clarenceville.
St. Andrew's Lodge	St. Andrews.
Golden Rule Lodge.....	Stanstead.
St. George's Lodge	Montreal.
Zetland Lodge	Montreal.
Barton Lodge.....	Hamilton.
Dorchester Lodge	St. Johns, C. E.
Prevost Lodge.....	Dunham.
St. George's Lodge	St. Catherines.
Lodge of Strict Observance	Hamilton.
Amity Lodge.....	Dunnville.
Composite Lodge.....	Whitby.
St. George's Lodge.....	London.
King Solomon Lodge	Woodstock.
St. Lawrence Lodge.....	Montreal.
Great Western Lodge.....	Windsor.
Acacia Lodge.....	Hamilton.
Shefford Lodge.....	Waterloo.
Hoyle Lodge	Lacolle.
St. John's Lodge	Hamilton.
Independent Lodge	Quebec.
Lodge of Social and Military Virtues.....	Montreal.
Wellington Lodge.....	Dunnville.
Hawkesbury Lodge	Hawkesbury.
St. John's Lodge	London.
King Hiram Lodge.....	Ingersoll.
St. John's Lodge.....	Cayuga.
St. Thomas Lodge.....	St. Thomas.
Brant Lodge.....	Brantford.
Vaughan Lodge.....	Vaughan.
Wellington Lodge.....	Stratford.
Harmony Lodge	Binbrook.
Brighton Lodge.....	Brighton.
St. Andrew's Lodge	Quebec.
King Solomon Lodge	Toronto.
Prince Edward's Lodge.....	Picton.
Thistle Lodge.....	Amherstburgh.

The Convention was opened at half-past four o'clock, P. M., with solemn prayer.

V. W. Br. C. Magill, (Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden,) was called upon to preside.

V. W. Br. Thomas B. Harris was requested to act as Secretary.

On the recommendation of a Committee appointed to consider rules and regulations for the government of the Convention,—the rules and regulations for conducting public business, contained in the Book of Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England, were, *mutatis mutandis*, unanimously adopted.

On motion of V. W. Br. Wm. M. Wilson, it was unanimously agreed that each Lodge represented at the Convention, be entitled to three votes.

It was moved by V. W. Br. Wm. M. Wilson, seconded by W. Br. Dr. Fenwick, and unanimously adopted :

That the following Brethren be a Committee to prepare Resolutions for the adoption of this Convention :—Thomas B. Harris, D. Brown, D. Curtis, Wm. M. Wilson, A. Bernard, Dr. Lundy, W. C. Stephens, G. Railton, W. B. Simpson, Richard Bull, and John Osborne.

The Convention adjourned till seven o'clock, P. M.

The Convention resumed its sitting at half-past seven P. M., V. W. Br. C. Magill, presiding.

The Committee appointed to prepare Resolutions for the adoption of the Convention, submitted the following preamble :

Whereas, the existence of Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons, in this Province, hailing from three several Grand Lodges, is a system productive of much evil to the Craft, creating a diversity of interests and allegiance,—an absence of harmony in action and working, perpetuating local and national feelings, and thus estranging the affections of Brethren, whose order knows no country and is confined to no race ; and,

Whereas, the Benevolent Funds of Canadian Free Masons, small as they are, are constantly taxed to relieve needy Brethren from Europe, while our resources are doubly drawn upon by contributions to the Grand Lodges of England and Ireland, and to the Pro-

vincial Grand Lodges of Canada, thus creating a constant drain upon those funds, from which but little return can ever be expected ; and,

Whereas, the distance between Canada and the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland presents a very serious difficulty in regard to the necessary correspondence, as well as the prompt receipt of Warrants and Certificates, which have been delayed for months, and in some cases for years, greatly to the inconvenience of the Fraternity in Canada : and,

Whereas, important communications, and even remittances of money, have been suffered to lie for years in the Grand Secretary's Office of England, without the least acknowledgment of their having been received in due course, brethren being compelled to leave the Province before they could receive from England the certificates for which they had long previously paid : and,

Whereas, the communications of the Provincial Grand Lodges of Canada to the Grand Lodge of England,—though respectfully and masonically expressed, especially when in the form of petitions or remonstrances, have been treated with silent contempt, their very receipt remaining unacknowledged : and,

Whereas, the Provincial Grand Masters of Canada and their Deputies are not appointed by, and are entirely irresponsible to the Freemasons of Canada, being the mere nominees of the Grand Lodges of Great Britain,—the members of which can know but little of the state of the Craft, or the Masonic position of individuals in this Province : and,

Whereas, whilst the Provincial Grand Lodges are thus rendered irresponsible to, and independent of the Craft in Canada, experience has shown that they are unable to secure from the Parent Grand Lodges, that attention and respect which are due to their position.

Therefore be it **RESOLVED** :

That in order to apply a remedy to the evils,—to form perfect fraternal union and harmony, establish order, ensure *tranquility*, provide for and promote the general welfare of the Craft, and secure to the fraternity of Canada all the blessings of Masonic privileges ; it is expedient, right, and our bounden duty to form a *Grand Lodge of Canada*.

It was moved, in amendment, that the following words be added to the Resolution :

And that the same be now organized, but that the Working thereof be held in abeyance until the action of the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland be made known on the subject.

On a division, the amendment was negatived by 38 Lodges to 3. The original motion was then, after due consideration, carried with one dissentient,—the dissenting brother desiring it to be understood that his dissent was caused from the absence of full instructions from his Lodge; he individually expressing his hearty concurrence in the original resolution.

It was then moved by W. Br. G. L. Allen, seconded by W. Br. Wm. Bellhouse, and unanimously adopted:

That we, the representatives of regularly warranted Lodges here in convention assembled—

RESOLVE:

That the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, be, and is hereby formed upon the ancient charges and constitution of Masonry.

On motion of W. Br. Osborne, seconded by Br. J. H. Isaacson, it was unanimously resolved:

That a Committee be appointed, consisting of W. Brs. W. M. Wilson, W. C. Stephens, R. Bull, Dr. Lundy, A. Bernard, T. B. Harris, Dr. Duggan—with power to add to their number, to prepare Rules and Regulations for the government of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

On motion the convention adjourned till Thursday morning, at eleven o'clock.

THURSDAY, 11th Oct. 5855.

The convention resumed its sitting at half-past ten o'clock A.M.

V. W. Br. C. Magill, presiding.

The Committee appointed to prepare rules and regulations presented their report.

It was moved by Br. A. S. Abbott, seconded by Br. Taylor, and unanimously resolved:

That the Draft of Constitution, now read by the Secretary, be, and is hereby adopted as the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

On motion of W. Br. Abbott, seconded by Br. J. B. Butler, it was unanimously adopted:

That Rules and Regulations having been adopted, the Convention proceed to the election of Grand Officers, to hold office until the 2nd Wednesday in June, A. L. 5856.

The following officers were declared duly elected.

- M. W. BR. WM. MERCER WILSON, G. M.
 R. W. " A. BERNARD, D. G. M.
 " " " W. C. STEPHENS, D. D. G. M., W. D.
 " " " W. R. SIMPSON, D. D. G. M., C. D.
 " " " W. EADEN, D. D. G. M., E. D.
 " " " RICHARD BULL, SEN. G. W.
 " " " JAMES DANIELL, JUN. G. W.
 " " " REV. DR. LUNDY, G. Chaplain.
 " " " WM. BELLHOUSE, G. Treasurer.
 " " " T. B. HARRIS, G. Secretary.

The Grand Master elect, was pleased to make the following appointments.

- V. W. BR. REV. G. SCOTT, ASS. G. Chaplain.
 " " " C. MAGILL, SEN. G. D.
 " " " GEO. L. ALLEN, JUN. G. D.
 " " " J. H. ISAACSON, Asst. G. Secretary.
 " " " THOS. DUGGAN, G. S. of Works.
 " " " J. OSBORNE, G. D. of Ceremonies.
 V. W. " G. E. FENWICK, Asst. G. D. of C.
 " " " J. W. HALDIMAND, G. S. B.
 " " " WM. T. THOMAS, G. Organist.
 " " " GEO. W. POWELL, G. Pursuivant.
 V. W. " J. R. Holden, } G. Stewards.
 " " " J. C. Butler, }
 " " " Jno. MORRISON, Grand Tyler.

On motion of W. Br. Taylor, seconded by W. Br. James Daniell, it was unanimously adopted :

That every Lodge concurring in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada, shall have authority granted them for the purpose of continuing their work, and that some reasonable time be mentioned therein, to enable them to make out the returns to the parent Grand Lodges, and should they fail to fulfil this engagement, then all protection from the Grand Lodge of Canada will cease.

On motion of W. Br. Jas. Daniell, seconded by W. Br. W. B. Simpson, it was resolved :

That a Committee be appointed to revise and amend the Rules and Regulations, and to report at the first annual Communication.

The following were appointed the Committee :

V. W. Brs. W. C. Stephens, R. Bull, Dr. Lundy, C. Magill, Thos. B. Harris, Wm. Bellhouse, Dr. Duggan.

Moved by Br. Dr. Lundy, seconded by Br. Taylor, and adopted :

That a Committee be appointed to assist the Grand Secretary on the Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Lodge, and that the purchase of the Grand Lodge Regalia, together with the books and all other necessities, be confided to such Committee.

The following Brethren were appointed :

V. W. Brs. Stephens, Lundy, Bull.

On motion of W. Br. A. Bernard, seconded by W. Br. W. B. Simpson, and unanimously adopted :

That the thanks of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and of the Craft in general, are eminently due, and are hereby tendered to the Brethren of Hamilton, for the indefatigable zeal and perseverance which they have evinced in devising the best means of establishing the Grand Lodge of Canada, as well as for their generous hospitality to the Brethren from a distance.

It was on motion of W. Br. Lundy, seconded by W. Br. Simpson, Resolved :

That the Seal now produced be used for temporary purposes, and that a new one be procured by the Committee on Correspondence.

On motion of W. Br. Bernard, seconded by W. Br. Wm. Bellhouse, it was unanimously adopted :

That the Grand Secretary be instructed to request all Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada to forward to him, at an early day, the number of their Warrant and the date of their formation, duly authenticated.

The Convention was adjourned, to meet at 9 o'clock on Friday morning.

FRIDAY, Oct. 12, 5855.

The Convention resumed its sitting at a quarter past five o'clock, P. M.

In consequence of V. W. Br. C. Magill having declined to accept the office of Grand Senior Deacon, the Grand Master elect ap-

pointed W. Br. Geo. L. Allen to be Grand Senior Deacon, and W. Br. Thos. Perkins to be Grand Junior Deacon.

On motion of W. Br. Richard Bull, seconded by W. Br. J. R. Holden, it was unanimously adopted :

That the Grand Master elect be requested to name three members of the Grand Lodge as a deputation to proceed, with as little delay as possible, to the residences of such Grand Masters or Past Grand Masters as may be most convenient, for the purpose of inviting them to this Grand Lodge, to install the M. W. Grand Master elect.

The Grand Master appointed the following Brethren such deputation :

W. Brs. A. Bernard, W. C. Stephens, Thos. B. Harris.

The Convention was adjourned with solemn prayer.

FRIDAY, November 2. 5855.

The Convention resumed its sitting at 6 o'clock, P. M.

PRESENT.

M. W. Br.	W. M. WILSON,	G. M.,	elect.
R. " "	W. C. STEPHENS,	D.D.G.M.	"
" " "	R. BULL,	G. Sen. W.	"
" " "	JAMES DANIELL,	G. Jun. W.	"
" " "	REV. DR. LUNDY,	G. Chaplain,	"
" " "	WM. BELLHOUSE,	G. Treasurer,	"
" " "	THOS. B. HARRIS,	G. Secretary,	"
V. " "	HENRY GRIST,	G. Sen. Deacon,	pro. tem.
" " "	THOS. PERKINS,	G. Jun. Deacon.	
" " "	JOHN OSBORNE,	G. Director of Ceremonies.	
" " "	DR. DUGGAN,	G. Supt. of Works.	
" " "	J. R. HOLDEN,	G. Steward.	
" " "	JOHN MORRISON,	G. Tyler.	

BRETHREN.

Br. D. BENEDICT.	Br. R. BENNER.
" W. H. PARK.	" J. A. BRUCE.
" J. ROGERSON.	" J. E. DALLYN.
" J. B. ELLISON.	" JAS. SMITH.
" W. G. CRAWFORD.	" T. C. BROWNJOHN.
" C. NORTON.	" L. ROSENBAND.
" WM. T. THOMAS.	" ALBERT DREY.
" C. MAGILL,	" C. KELLY.
" M. DAVIS.	" A. C. QUIMBY.
" JOHN AUSTIN.	" I. C. CHILLMAN.
" J. R. SKINNER.	" J. W. MULLOCK.
" T. T. ROE.	" A. RANDALL.
" G. F. THOMAS.	" GEO. NIXON.
" GEO. VANDYKE.	

And other visiting Brethren.

The deputation appointed to proceed to the residences of such Grand Masters as may be deemed expedient, to invite one or more of them to assist at the installation of the Grand Master of Canada, report :

That they had proceeded to Detroit, and secured the services of the M. W., the Hon'ble H. T. Backus, Past Grand Master of the M. W., the Grand Lodge of the State of Michigan, who was in attendance, and ready to proceed at once to the Consecration, Installation, and Investiture, of the Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

The M. W. Br. H. T. Backus was introduced, and took his seat on the Throne.

The M. W. Grand Master and the Grand Officers elect of the Grand Lodge of Canada were then presented.

The M. W. Past Grand Master, H. T. Backus, performed the ceremonies of consecrating the Grand Lodge of Canada, and installed the Grand Master, and invested and installed the Grand Officers in due and ancient form.

The Grand Marshall declared :

That in the name and by the authority of the Antient Constitutions of Masonry, and the proceedings of a Convention convened pursuant to the same,

I proclaim this new Grand Lodge by the name of The Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada duly constituted.

On motion of R. W. Grand Senior Warden, seconded by R. W. Grand Junior Warden, it was unanimously

RESOLVED :

That the thanks of this Grand Lodge are due, and are hereby tendered to the M. W. Br. the Hon'ble H. T. Backus, for his fraternal kindness in consecrating this Grand Lodge, and installing the Grand Master of Canada, and the impressive manner in which that important ceremony was performed.

The M. W. Grand Master then closed the Grand Lodge in ample form, with solemn prayer.

THOS. B. HARRIS, G.S.



GRAND LODGE OF CANADA.

At the first annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, held at the Masonic Hall, in the City of Hamilton, on Wednesday the 9th day of July, A. L. 5856. A. D. 1856.

PRESENT.

GRAND OFFICERS.

The Most Worshipful Br. W. Mercer Wilson, Grand Master
on the Throne.

R. W. Br. A. Bernard, Deputy Grand Master.

R. W. Br. W. C. Stephens, District Deputy Grand Master,
Western District.

R. W. Br. W. B. Simpson, District Deputy Grand Master,
Central District.

V. W. Br. Charles Magill, Grand Senior Warden, *pro tem.*

R. W. Br. James Daniel, Grand Junior Warden.

R. W. Br. Rev. Dr. Lundy, Grand Chaplain.

R. W. Br. Wm. Bellhouse, Grand Treasurer.

R. W. Br. T. B. Harris, Grand Secretary.

V. W. Br. G. L. Allen, Grand Senior Deacon.

V. W. Br. Henry Crouse, Grand Junior Deacon, *pro tem.*

Br. Dr. Duggan, Grand Superintendent of Works.

V. W. Br. John Osborne, Grand Director of Ceremonies.

V. W. Br. J. H. Isaacson, Assistant Grand Secretary.

W. Br. W. T. Thomas, Grand Organist.

V. W. Br. J. W. Powell, Grand Pursuivant.

Br. John Morrison, Grand Tyler.

PAST MASTERS.

W. Br. Geo. Powell,	W. Br. Jno. W. Baine,
W. Br. Hiram Fulford,	V. W. Br. C. Magill,
R. W. Br. W. B. Simpson,	R. W. Br. W. C. Stephens,
R. W. Br. James Daniell,	R. W. Br. Thos. B. Harris,
W. Br. A. S. Abbott,	W. Br. Elisha Gustin,
“ “ Joseph F. Rolfe,	“ “ David Brown,
“ “ Geo. Duncan,	R. W. Br. Rev. F. J. Lundy,
“ “ Joseph Cornick,	R. W. Br. Wm. Bellhouse,
“ “ Thos. Fletcher,	W. Br. H. B. Bull,
R. W. Br. A. Bernard.	

The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form, with solemn prayer.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master appointed the following brethren a Committee on Credentials:—R. W. Brs. Simpson, Daniell, and Harris :

The Committee on Credentials reported the following representatives of regular Chartered Lodges, present, also the officers of the undermentioned Lodges under dispensation, whom they recommended to be admitted, and allowed to take part in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge.

NORFOLK LODGE, SIMCOE.

H. Crouse, W. M. ; G. W. Powell, P. M.

SUSSEX LODGE, BROCKVILLE.

Samuel Ross, W. M. ; H. Fulford, P. M. ;

W. B. Simpson, D. D. G. M., P. M.

PRINCE EDWARD'S LODGE, PICTON.

David Barker, W. M.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, LONDON.

James Moffat, W. M. ; A. S. Abbott, S. W. ; Wm. Daniell, J. W. ;

Joseph F. Rolfe, P. M. ; James Daniel, G. J. W., P. M.

GREAT WESTERN LODGE, WINDSOR.

George Duncan, P. M.

THISTLE LODGE, AMHERSTBURG.

William Bungay, W. M. ; George Gott, J. W.

WELLINGTON LODGE, DUNNVILLE.

D. McIndoe, W. M. ; D. McSwain, S. W.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, CAYUGA.

John Robert Carroll, S. W.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, ST. CATHARINES.

Thomas Fletcher, P. M.

HARMONY LODGE, BINEROOK.

Jeremiah Taylor, W. M.; John Brown, S. W.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, MONTREAL.

A. Bernard, D. G. M., P. M.

LODGE OF MILITARY AND SOCIAL VIRTUES, MONTREAL.

A. Bernard, D. G. M.; Proxy for W. M.

ZETLAND LODGE, MONTREAL.

John H. Isaacson, Asst. G. Sec., W. M.; John Martin, J. W.

LODGE OF STRICT OBSERVANCE, HAMILTON.

John Osborne, G. D. of C., W. M.;

William Bellhouse, G. Treas., P. M.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, HAMILTON.

John F. McCuaig, W. M.; John W. Baine, P. M.;

W. T. Thomas, G. Organist, J. W.

THE BARTON LODGE, HAMILTON.

H. B. Bull, W. M.; Charles Magill, P. M.;

Richard W. Thorne, J. W.

ACACIA LODGE, HAMILTON.

W. C. Stephens, D. D. G. M., W. M.;

Dr. Duggan, G. S. of W., S. W.; T. B. Harris, G. Sec., J. W.

GOLDEN RULE LODGE, STANSTEAD.

Elisha Gustin, P. M. (Proxy.)

PROVOST LODGE, DUNHAM.

David Brown, P. M. (Proxy.)

UNION LODGE, GRIMSEY.

J. Wesley Lewis, W. M.; Andrew Randall, S. W.;

Rev. Dr. Lundy, G. Chaplain, P. M.

KING SOLOMON'S LODGE, TORONTO.

James E. Smith, W. M.; Joseph A. Fisher, J. W.

SHEFFORD LODGE, WATERLOO.

E. Gustin, Proxy for W. M.

VAUGHAN LODGE, MAPLEVILLE.

James Bowman, Proxy for W. M.

BRANT LODGE, BRANTFORD.

George W. Malloch, S. W.

LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE, CALLEDONIA.

Dr. William McPherson, W. M.; William Waugh, S. W.
William A. Spooner, J. W.; Jos. Cornick, P. M.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, INGERSOLL.

John Patterson, S. W.

KING LODGE, KING.

James Bowman, W. M.

KILWINNING LODGE, LONDON.

William Muir, W. M.; Donald McDonald, Proxy for S. W.;
Dougald McInnes, Proxy for J. W.

ALMA LODGE, GALT.

Norman Booth, S. W.

REHOBOTH LODGE, TORONTO.

G. L. Allen, W. M.; E. R. O'Brien, S. W.

JACQUES CARTIER LODGE, MONTREAL.

J. H. Isaacson, Asst. G. Sec., Proxy for W. M.

ST. FRANCIS LODGE, MELBOURNE.

A. Bernard, D. G. M. (Proxy.)

VICTORIA LODGE, SHERBROOKE.

A. Bernard, D. G. M. (Proxy.)

On motion of R. W. Br. Bernard, the Report of the Committee on Credentials was unanimously adopted.

Worshipful Brother David Brown was introduced, and presented his credentials as representative of the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of the State of Vermont, which the Most Worshipful the Grand Master was pleased to receive and confirm.

The minutes of the Convention held on the 10th day of October, 5855, at which the Grand Lodge was established, and on the 2nd day of November following, when the Grand Lodge was consecrated and the Grand Master and Grand Officers were installed and invested, were read and confirmed.

The Grand Master then read the following

ADDRESS:

WORSHIPFUL BRETHREN AND BRETHRENNES,

Nine months have passed away since the brethren met in this city in solemn convocation, for the purpose of taking into their most serious consideration the state and requirements of masonry in this Province: the result of their labours was the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Canada. It is unnecessary now to refer to the doubts which agitated the minds of the brethren as to the necessity and propriety of the step which was ultimately decided on, after a long and anxious discussion on the various important points the question involved, and when after a careful research into precedents, the light of truth directed us, without violating any of our obligations, but acting in strict conformity with the true spirit of them all, to that great result which will be remembered with gratitude by all future generations of Canadian Freemasons, and looked upon as the dawn of a new era of masonic prosperity in the Province.

Whilst we have much cause for deep gratitude to T. G. A. O. T. U., for the large measure of success that has already rewarded our zealous labours in the cause of masonry, our path has not been free from difficulties and obstacles. In both sections of the Province there are some brethren, who, disregarding the claims of charity and brotherly love, have aspersed the integrity of our motives and sneered at our earnest efforts to advance the interests of our common cause, and unmindful alike of justice and truth, have characterized us as traitors to the order. But actuated by the true spirit of masonry which has, and I trust ever will direct the actions of this Grand Lodge, your officers have steadily persevered in the conscientious discharge of the important duties entrusted to them, to remove the unfounded prejudices of the ignorant, and to correct or to defy the opposition of the violent; the manner in which they have performed their arduous duties merits your warmest approval, and I trust that the Lodges will continue to afford them their united and earnest support, to ensure the permanent prosperity and dignified position of the Grand Lodge.

There are many matters of interest and importance to be brought before you at this communication, and your prudent action thereon will secure the future harmonious working of the Grand Lodge. You are fully alive to the necessity of approaching the discussion of those matters in a proper masonic spirit, keeping prominently in view that the good of the craft is the object to which our efforts are directed, and I feel assured that, however we may individually differ in opinion as to the best method to be adopted in order to secure that great end, we shall never forget that as brethren it is our especial duty to work together in harmony, peace and unity.

The amended constitution comes before you as first in importance, and I am satisfied that the Grand Lodge will cordially join with me in saying, that we feel deeply indebted to those brethren who have devoted so much time, care and ability to the compilation of that important work. I would here refer in an especial manner to the valuable services of R. W. Bro. Stephens, in that and other matters; his advice and co-operation have been of the greatest importance to our cause, and I have ever found him ready and willing to afford both. At my suggestion printed copies were forwarded to every Lodge for careful consideration, and that the brethren might offer suggestions of such alterations as they thought desirable; these suggested alterations have now been re-considered, and the document as amended will be submitted for your adoption.

Since the last meeting of the Grand Lodge I have officially visited nearly all the Lodges in this part of the Province, and in every instance my reception was most kind and fraternal. I would take this opportunity of earnestly impressing upon those brethren who may hereafter fill high positions in the Grand Lodge, the necessity and importance of paying frequent visits to the subordinate Lodges, which will not only have the effect of drawing still closer the bonds of brotherhood, but will also satisfy those brethren whose lot has been cast in the more distant and less settled parts of the Province, that we take a deep and lively interest in their masonic welfare and happiness, and that they are indeed members of that great mystic fraternity which has endured for ages and extends its benefits to the remotest regions of the world.

In the course of my masonic tour I observed with regret that there existed a great diversity in the working of the various Lodges, and conceiving that one uniform system of work is essential to the well-being of the craft, I would strongly recommend to your serious consideration whether that object would be best secured by first deciding which system of work now in use shall be permanently adopted, and then promulgating it by Lodges of instruction, or by appointed lecturers, or by any other means you may approve. Before quitting this subject I would suggest that the Committee which you may appoint to decide on the mode of work to be followed by the craft in Canada should be requested also to take into consideration and report upon the propriety of adding the "Mark" to the "Fellow Craft's" degree. It has long been my opinion that the "Mark" is not properly a part of the "Arch" degree but belongs to the second degree, and a similar view of the subject appears now to have been taken by the Grand Lodge of England as well as by several other Grand Lodges.

The subject of numbering our subordinate Lodges will also claim your attention during the present session. This is a matter of some importance, and though not unattended with difficulty, I entertain no doubt but that a careful investigation of the subject by a Special Committee will result in a satisfactory conclusion.

I desire warmly to congratulate you upon the prompt and hearty recognition accorded us by the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ireland. As a large number of the subordinate Lodges now affiliated with this Grand Lodge were formerly working under warrants from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the action of that Grand body was looked for with much solicitude by us all, and the truly fraternal manner in which the expression of our masonic feelings was reciprocated by them, binds us still closer in that bond of brotherly love which I trust will remain unbroken and unstrained so long as the sun and the moon shall endure.

A number of Grand Lodges in the United States, also, have already, in the most fraternal spirit, acknowledged the correctness of our masonic position, whilst a few others have delayed their recognition, out of courtesy to the Grand Lodge of England, waiting until an opinion had been expressed by that Grand Lodge. I

am not disposed to condemn the extreme caution exercised by that portion of our sister Grand Lodges in this matter, but will merely say that whilst the Grand Lodge of England is looked up to by Canadian masons with sentiments of the highest respect and regard, and whilst her approval of the step we have taken will be hailed by all with delight and satisfaction, we do not for a moment admit that her decision in the matter can in any way affect the legality of our position. The correctness of our course has been clearly demonstrated by many of the most distinguished and best informed of masonic writers and authorities, and although by some parties our proceedings have been condemned, I have neither met with nor heard of a single instance in which any but worthless and specious arguments have been adduced against the correctness of our action, or our present constitutional position.

The present meeting of the Grand Lodge has been deferred beyond the appointed time, in the hope that I should have been able to lay before you the reply of the Grand Lodge of England to our Address; I regret, however, to say that up to this time no communication has been received. We must, therefore, confidently hope that the true spirit of masonry which has ever prominently distinguished the Grand Lodge of England, will so direct their counsels at their next meeting that they will approve of the action we have taken for the security and benefit of the craft in this Province, reciprocate the sincerely fraternal feelings we entertain towards them, and recognize with cheerful satisfaction their sister Grand Lodge of Canada. I would strongly recommend that until the decision of the Grand Lodge of England shall have been received, the course which has hitherto been pursued towards the members of those Lodges which have not yet affiliated with us should be persevered in, and that we should continue all fraternal offices to those brethren whose conscientious scruples have deterred them from at once joining us in the establishment of an independent Grand Lodge, feeling assured that when the justice of our cause has become fully understood, the Grand Lodge of Canada will unite under its banner the whole masonic fraternity of the Province.

I observe by the report of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of New York, in June last, that M. W. Joseph D. Evans, the

Grand Master, in his address to the Grand Lodge, stigmatizes us as a spurious Grand Lodge, and pronounces us schismatic and rebellious. He even goes farther than this, and presumes to censure the action of those distinguished Grand bodies who have acknowledged our masonic existence and position as an independent Grand Lodge.

We have strong reasons for believing that the course taken by Bro. Evans was induced by a circular recently issued by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, wherein it is asserted that the statements contained in our Address to Grand Lodges are not borne out by facts; and this charge, or rather ingeniously arranged misrepresentation, supported by further misrepresentations of parties well known to you to be actuated by personal and interested motives, and to be the agents of the Provincial Grand Lodge, has doubtless misled the Grand Master of New York. I trust we are warranted in the conclusion that the observations of Bro. Evans were made in ignorance of the principal facts connected with our recent movement, for it would, indeed, be painful to me to adopt the only other alternative and believe that any statement of a Brother holding the high position of Brother Evans amongst the masons of New York, could have been made with an utter disregard of truth.

The circular of the Provincial Grand Lodge is the first case that has come before me of any one having openly dared to dispute the truth of any statement contained in our Address, which, with a desire that our case should become thoroughly known, was extensively circulated all over this continent. The first I knew of the existence of the circular, which appears to have been carefully concealed from us, was a few days since, when a distinguished Brother, a leading member of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, informed me that such a circular had been addressed to them. Since my arrival in this city a copy has been put into my hands, and it will presently be laid before you. Had it not been for this evidence I would not have believed that the "Officers" who still cling to the Provincial Grand Lodge would have descended to calumniate our proceedings, which they well know to have been taken on calm reflection, with strictly conscientious

motives, and in perfect accordance with the principles of the Constitution of Freemasonry.

In addition to the 2,000 miles which I have travelled exclusively on masonic business, in the Province, since our last meeting, I returned last week from a visit to Kentucky, which involved a journey of 2,000 miles more. I visited the Kentucky brethren on their *special* invitation, and with a desire to make the acquaintance of the leading members of our order in the neighbouring Republic, and I cannot find words to express the gratification I experienced from the kind and fraternal welcome with which I was received, and the pleasure and advantage I derived from the intercourse with the brethren with whom it was my good fortune to meet. These honors and attentions I received as your representative, and it gives me great pleasure to communicate the fact to you.

I desire to recommend to your favorable consideration that important undertaking to which our distinguished Brother Robert Morris has devoted so much time, ability and capital. I allude to the republication of standard masonic works. By the labor and enterprise of Brother Morris in placing within the reach of all a fund of masonic information, not only in the publication referred to, but also in the valuable periodical conducted under his auspices, a flood of masonic light has been bestowed upon the craft, of inestimable benefit to the masons of the present day, and which was quite unknown to our masonic progenitors. There are many other masonic periodicals deserving your warmest support, and brethren desirous of becoming intelligent working masons should avail themselves of the opportunity of acquiring the valuable information thus placed within their reach. I cannot quit this subject without expressing the great pleasure I experienced on the receipt of the first number of an ably conducted masonic sheet, published in Montreal, under the title of *The Canadian Masonic Pioneer*.—The spirit and enterprise displayed by our Montreal brethren in originating this periodical, entitle them to the gratitude of the craft; and, well knowing that it is to be conducted by some of the best informed masons of the Province, we may look forward with confidence to its becoming an invaluable disseminator of masonic light and truth.

Before concluding my Address I desire to express my high appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the Grand Lodge, and to the craft generally, by our esteemed brother the R. W. Dr. Bernard, the Deputy G. Master. His unwearied exertions, his untiring energies, his talents and his time have been freely and cheerfully devoted to advance the interest of the Grand Lodge, and entitle him to our grateful thanks. In these remarks I feel assured that I express the feelings of the Grand Lodge.

W. M. WILSON, G. M.

On motion of R. W. Bro. Stephens, seconded by R. W. Bro. Bellhouse, the Grand Master appointed the following brethren a Committee to consider and report on the various subjects embraced in his Address.

R. W. Bro. Stephens, V. W. Bro. Osborne, W. Bro. Abbott, Bro. O'Brien and Bro. Martin.

Dispensations granted by the Grand Master for the following Lodges were then confirmed and warrants ordered :—

On motion of R. W. Bro. W. B. Simpson, seconded by R. W. Bro. James Daniell—

FOR ST. ANDREW'S LODGE, CALEDONIA.

W. Bro. Joseph Cornick, W. M. ;

W. Bro. William McPherson, S. W. ;

W. Bro. William A. Spooner, J. W.

On motion of R. W. Bro. James Daniell, seconded by V. W. Bro. J. H. Isaacson—

FOR KILWINNING LODGE, LONDON.

Bro. William Muir, W. M. ;

Bro. William Gore Chambers, S. W. ;

Bro. F. W. Thomas, J. W.

On motion of W. Bro. J. Rolfe, seconded by W. B. Bro. Abbott—

FOR REHOBOTH LODGE, TORONTO.

W. Bro. G. L. Allen, W. M. ;

Bro. Edward Roby O'Brien, S. W. ;

Bro. Wm. Henry Pardy, J. W.

On motion of R. W. Bro. A. Bernard, seconded by R. W. Bro. Simpson—

FOR ST. FRANCIS LODGE, MELBOURNE.

Bro. James Atkinson, W. M. ;
 Bro. W. A. Thomson, S. W. ;
 Bro. William Montgomery, J. W.

On motion of V. W. Bro. Isaacson, seconded by Bro. Martin—

FOR JACQUES CARTIER LODGE, MONTREAL.

Bro. John W. Haldimand, W. M. ;
 Bro. Leander Franchere, Jr., S. W. ;
 Bro. Rodolphe Lafammae, J. W.

On motion of V. W. Bro. J. H. Isaacson, seconded by W. Bro. D. Barker—

FOR ST. JOHN'S LODGE, INGERSOLL.

Bro. John Galliford, W. M. ;
 Bro. John Patterson, S. W. ;
 Bro. John Fursman, J. W.

On motion of R. W. Bro. James Daniell, seconded by W. Bro. Rolfe—

FOR KING LODGE, KING.

Bro. James Bowman, W. M. ;
 Bro. Isaac Smelsor, S. W. ;
 Bro. William Watson, J. W.

On motion of W. Bro. David Brown, seconded by W. Bro. J. Taylor :—

FOR ALMA LODGE, GALT.

W. Bro. Hiram Fulford, W. M. ;
 Bro. Norman Booth, S. W. ;
 Brother Æmilius Irving, J. W.

On motion of R. W. Bro. Simpson, seconded by W. Bro. Salmoni—

FOR VICTORIA LODGE, SHERBROOKE.

Bro. J. S. Watson, W. M. ;
 Bro. Arnold Lindsay, S. W. ;
 Bro. John J. Boyd, J. W.

A petition from brethren in Kingston for a warrant to form a Lodge to be called the Cataraqui Lodge, was then read, and on motion referred by the Grand Master to a Committee consisting of R. W. Bros. Bernard and Stephens, and V. W. Bro. Isaacson.

The Grand Lodge was called from labour to refreshment.

The Grand Lodge resumed its sitting at 8 o'clock P. M.,

The M. W. Grand Master on the Throne.

The following Report from the Committee appointed at the Convention on the 12th of October, 5855, to revise and amend the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Canada, was then read.

REPORT.

Your Committee beg leave to report that, after carefully consulting the various masonic authorities, and well weighing what appeared to them the wants of the fraternity in Canada, they have compiled, and now offer for the consideration of your Grand Lodge the accompanying amended constitution.

The amended Constitution, as submitted by the Committee, was then considered *seriatim*, to page 26

The Grand Lodge was then called off from labor to refreshment to meet at 10 o'clock the following morning.

THURSDAY, 10TH JULY.

The Grand Lodge resumed its sitting at 10 o'clock.

The M. W. Grand Master on the Throne.

The consideration, *seriatim*, of the amended constitution was proceeded with and concluded.

On motion of R. W. Bro. Simpson seconded by W. Br. Fulford,

The constitution of the Grand Lodge of Canada, submitted by the Committee, and as amended by the Grand Lodge was unanimously confirmed and adopted, and ordered to be entered on the minutes, and to be printed as the constitution of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada.

WE, THE GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF CANADA, in order to form perfect fraternal union, to establish order, to ensure tranquillity, to provide for and promote the general welfare of the Craft, and to secure to the Fraternity of Canada, all the blessings of Masonic privileges, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

OF THE GRAND LODGE.

1. The style and title of the Grand Lodge shall be—

“The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada.”

2. The Officers of the Grand Lodge shall be respectively elected or appointed, as hereinafter provided, and hold their offices for one year, or until their successors shall have been regularly elected or appointed.

The election and appointment of all Officers shall take place at the Annual Communication, when all Officers of the Grand Lodge shall be duly installed or invested, and proclaimed in ancient form.

3. The following Officers shall be elected, viz :

By ballot of the Grand Lodge,

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master.

“ Right	“	Deputy Grand Master.
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“ “	“	Grand Senior Warden.
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“ “	“	“ Junior Warden.
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“ “	“	“ Chaplain.
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“ “	“	“ Treasurer.
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“ “	“	“ Registrar.
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“ “	“	“ Secretary.
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By an open vote of the Grand Lodge,

The Grand Tyler.

By the representatives of the Lodges of the respective districts present at the Annual Communications, subject to the confirmation of the Grand Master.

The Right Worshipful the District Deputy Grand Master.

4. The following Officers shall be appointed by the Grand Masters, viz :

The Very Worshipful Grand Senior Deacon.

“ “ “ “ Junior Deacon.

“ “ “ “ Superintendent of Works.

“ “ “ “ Director of Ceremonies.

“ “ “ Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

“ “ “ Assistant Grand Secretary.

“ “ “ Grand Sword Bearer.

“ “ “ “ Organist.

“ “ “ Assistant Grand Organist.

“ “ “ Grand Pursuivant.

Eight Very Worshipful Grand Stewards.

5. The Grand Lodge shall consist of the Elective and Appointed Officers (excepting the Grand Tyler) mentioned in the two preceding articles, with all Past Grand Officers, continuing to subscribe to a Lodge; the Masters and Wardens of all Private Lodges (duly returned,) and all Past Masters (duly returned) being subscribing members to a Private Lodge.

7. Should neither of the representative Officers, or Past Masters of a Lodge, attend any communication of Grand Lodge, such Lodge, by a vote of the Lodge, properly certified by the Worshipful Master and Secretary, and under seal, may delegate any other brother entitled to a seat in Grand Lodge to represent their Lodge, but no brother can represent more than three Lodges.

The Rank of Officers and Members of Grand Lodge, shall be as follows :

The Grand Master.

Past Grand Masters, in seniority.

The Deputy Grand Master.

Past Deputy Grand Masters.

District	Deputy	Grand	Master,	London	District.
"	"	"	"	Hamilton	"
"	"	"	"	Toronto	"
"	"	"	"	Central	"
"	"	"	"	Montreal	"
"	"	"	"	Eastern Townships	"
"	"	"	"	Quebec	"

Past District Deputy Grand Masters.

Grand Senior Warden.

Past " " "

Grand Junior Warden.

Past " " "

Grand Chaplain.

Past " "

Grand Treasurer.

Past " "

Grand Registrar.

Past " "

Grand Secretary.

Past " "

Grand Senior Deacon.

Past " " "

Grand Junior Deacon.

Past " " "

Grand Superintendent of Works.

Past " " "

Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Past " " "

Assistant Grand Secretary.

Past " " "

Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Past " " " "

Grand Sword Bearer.

Past " " "

Grand Organist.

Past " "

Assistant Grand Organist.

Past " " "

Grand Pursuivant.

Past “ “

Grand Stewards.

Past “ “

The Masters, Past Masters, and Senior and Junior Wardens of Private Lodges, in the Order of the Numbers of their respective Lodge Warrants.

8. The elective Officers (except the Tyler) to be chosen by ballot, shall require a majority of all the votes present.

9. No brother shall be eligible to any elective office in the Grand Lodge, unless he has been regularly installed Worshipful Master of a Private Lodge.

10. Should a vacancy occur in any office of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall nominate a qualified brother to supply the place, *pro tempore*.

11. Brethren of eminence and ability, who have rendered service to the craft, may, by a vote of the Grand Lodge, be constituted members of the Grand Lodge, with such rank and distinction as may be thought proper.

12. No member of the Grand Lodge shall attend therein without his proper jewel and clothing, nor wearing any jewel not recognized by the Grand Lodge.

13. Should any lodge have neglected to make its returns and payments to the Grand Lodge for the space of one year, the Master, Wardens, and Past Masters of such lodge shall not be permitted to attend any meeting of the Grand Lodge until such returns and payments shall have been completed.

14. No brother shall be permitted to attend the Grand Lodge as Master, Past Master, or Warden, until his name and appointment shall have been duly returned and transmitted to the Grand Secretary's office.

15. The annual communication of Grand Lodge shall be held on the first Wednesday in July, at which the place of holding the next communication shall be decided. None but members shall be present at these communications, without permission of the Grand Master. No visitor shall speak to any question, without leave of the Grand Master, nor shall he, on any occasion, be permitted to vote.

16. The Grand Master shall, as soon as convenient after the opening of the Grand Lodge, appoint the following standing Committees, to whom shall be referred all such matters as appertain to them respectively :

- 1.—On Credentials.
- 2.—On Correspondence.
- 3.—On the Condition of Masonry.
- 4.—On Constitution and Regulations.
- 5.—On Warrants.
- 6.—On Grievances.
- 7.—On Appeals.
- 8.—On Finance.
- 9.—On Accounts of Representatives.
- 10.—On Charity.
- 11.—An Audit Committee.

17. The Committee on Credentials shall consist of three Masters or Past Masters, who shall attend within the porch of the Grand Lodge, at that communication, for the purpose of guarding, under the superintendence of the Grand Pursuivant, against the admission of any but those who are qualified, and have their proper clothing and jewels, and have signed their names to the accustomed papers, and are in all respects entitled to admission.

18. The Grand Master, or, in his absence, the Deputy Grand Master, or, in his absence, the Grand Wardens, may summon and hold Grand Lodges of emergency, whenever the good of the Craft shall, in their opinion, require it: the particular reason for convening such Lodge of emergency shall be expressed in the summons, and no other business shall be entered upon at that meeting.

19. There shall be a Masonic Festival at the annual communication in July, which shall be dedicated to brotherly love and refreshment, and to which all regular Masons shall have access, on providing themselves with tickets from the Grand Stewards.

20. If, at any Grand Lodge, stated or occasional, the Grand Master be absent, the lodge shall be ruled by the Grand Officer next in rank and seniority who may be present, and, if no Grand Officer be present, by the Master of the Senior Lodge.

N.B.—The Grand Lodge is declared to be opened in *ample form* when the Grand Master is present, in *due form* when a past Grand Master or the Deputy presides, at all other times only *in form*, yet with the same authority.

21. All powers and authorities, and rules and regulations for the government of the Grand Lodge, or private lodges, or committees, respectively, during times of public business, or meetings, or proceedings, shall be used, and exercised, and enforced respectively by the officers or members by any law or constitution authorised to preside or act in the absence of the Grand Master, or any superior officer or member in such lodges, or committees, or in the general improvement of the craft, as fully, to all intents and purposes, as if such substituted officers or members were specified in every law or constitution in which any powers or authorities are given, or rules or regulations prescribed for the principals, unless special provision is made to the contrary.

22. In the Grand Lodge alone resides the power of enacting laws and regulations for the government of the craft, and of altering, repealing, and abrogating them, always taking care that the ancient land-marks of the order are preserved. The Grand Lodge has also the inherent power of investigating, regulating, and deciding all matters relative to the craft, or to particular lodges, or to individual brothers which it may exercise either of itself, or by such delegated authority as, in its wisdom and discretion, it may appoint; but in the Grand Lodge alone resides the power of erasing lodges and expelling brethren from the craft, a power which it ought not to delegate to any subordinate authority.

23. No Lodge shall be erased, nor any brother expelled, until the Master or Officers of the Lodge, or the offending brother shall have been summoned to show cause, in the Grand Lodge, why such sentence should not be recorded and enforced.

24. All differences or complaints that cannot be accommodated privately, or in some regular lodge, shall be reduced into writing, and delivered to the Grand Secretary, who shall lay them before the Grand Master, or the Committee appointed by the Grand Lodge. When all parties shall have been summoned to attend thereon,

and the case shall have been investigated, such order and adjudication may be made as shall be authorised by the laws and regulations of masonry.

25. When any memorial, or other document, shall be presented by any member of the Grand Lodge, either on behalf of himself or another, the member presenting it shall be responsible that such paper does not contain any improper matter, or any offensive or indecorous language.

26. No brother below the rank of a Past Grand Master shall assume the Grand Master's chair, though he be entitled in the absence of the Grand Master, to rule the Grand Lodge.

REGULATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF GRAND LODGE DURING THE TIME OF PUBLIC BUSINESS.

1. THE Grand Lodge being opened, the Regulations are to be read. The minutes of the last regular communication, and of any intervening Grand Lodge, are then to be put for confirmation, and all communications from the Grand Master, and Deputy Grand Master, and reports from the District Deputy Grand Masters and Committees, are there to be read and taken into consideration, and the other business regularly proceeded with.

2. All matters are to be decided by a majority of votes, each Lodge having three votes, each Past Master one vote, each officer of Grand Lodge (except the Grand Tyler) not otherwise entitled to a vote shall have one vote by virtue of his office, and the Grand Master a casting vote in case of equality; unless the Lodge, for the sake of expedition, think proper to leave any particular subject to the determination of the Grand Master. The votes of the members are always to be signified by each holding up one of his hands, which uplifted hands the Grand Wardens or Deacons are to count, unless the number should be so unequal as to render counting unnecessary.

3. All members shall keep their seats, except the Grand Deacons, Grand Director of Ceremonies, and his Assistant, and the Grand Stewards, who are allowed to move about, from place to place, in the discharge of their duties.

4. No brother shall speak twice to the same question, unless in explanation, or the mover in reply.

5. Every one who speaks shall rise, and remain standing, addressing himself to the Grand Master, nor shall any brother presume to interrupt him, unless to address the Grand Master to order, or the Grand Master shall think fit to call him to order; but, after he has been set right, he may proceed if he observe due order and decorum.

6. If any member shall have been twice called to order for transgressing these rules, and shall, nevertheless, be guilty of a third offence at the same meeting, the Grand Master shall peremptorily command him to leave the lodge for that communication.

7. Whoever shall be so unmasonic as to hiss at a brother, or what he has said, shall be, forthwith, solemnly excluded the communication, and declared incapable of being a member of the Grand Lodge, until, at another time, he publicly own his fault, and grace be granted.

8. No motion on a new subject shall be made, nor any new matter entered upon after eleven o'clock at night.

OF GRAND MASTER.

1. The Grand Master shall, according to ancient usage, be elected and installed at the annual communication. He is then to nominate such of his Grand Officers as it is his prerogative to appoint, and with the elective Grand Officers, they are to be thereupon installed or invested in ancient form.

2. No brother shall fill the Office of Grand Master for more than two consecutive years, but he may be re-elected after the expiration of the following year.

3. Should the Grand Master die during his Grand Mastership, or be rendered incapable of discharging the duties of his office, (by sickness, absence, or otherwise,) the Deputy Grand Master, or, in his absence, the District Deputy Grand Master of the District, or in his absence, the Grand Wardens, shall assemble the Grand

Lodge immediately, to record the event; which Grand Lodge shall appoint three of its members to invite the last preceding Grand Master to act until a new election take place; should he decline or be unable to act, then the last but one, and so on; if no former Grand Master be found to act, the Grand Lodge shall be summoned to elect a Grand Master.

4. The Grand Master, under sanction of the Grand Lodge, may by warrant appoint any brother of eminence and skill to represent the Grand Lodge in a sister Grand Lodge. He may also, with the concurrence of the Grand Lodge, constitute any distinguished brother, who may be regularly deputed from a sister Grand Lodge, a member of the Grand Lodge of Canada, with such rank as the Grand Lodge may deem to be appropriate.

5. The Grand Master has full authority to preside in any Lodge and to order any of his Grand Officers to attend him. His Deputy is to be placed on his right and the Master of the Lodge on his left hand. His Wardens are, also, to act as Wardens of that particular Lodge during his presence; but if the Grand Wardens be absent, then the Grand Master may command the Wardens of the Lodge, or any Master Masons to act there as his Wardens, *pro tempore*.

6. The Grand Master may send his Grand Officers to visit any Lodge he may think proper.

7. Should the Grand Master be dissatisfied with the conduct of any of his Grand Officers, he may submit the cause of complaint to the Grand Lodge; and, should it appear to the majority of the brethren present that the complaint be well-founded, he may suspend or displace such Grand Officer. If displaced, another Officer must be elected or nominated, as previously provided, but no Grand Officer can be removed unless with the approbation of the Grand Lodge.

8. The Grand Master may summon any Lodge or brother to attend him, and to produce the warrant, books, papers, and accounts of such lodge, or the certificate of such brother. If the summons be not complied with, or a sufficient reason given for non-compliance, such summons is to be repeated as a peremptory summons; and if such last summons be not attended to, such lodge or brother may be suspended, and the proceeding notified to the Grand Lodge.

9. The Grand Master shall not be applied to on any business concerning masons or masonry, but through the Grand Secretary, the Deputy Grand Master, or the District Deputy Grand Masters.

10. If the Grand Master should abuse his power, and render himself unworthy of the obedience of the Lodges, he shall be subjected to some new regulation, to be dictated by the occasion.

OF DEPUTY GRAND MASTER.

1. This Officer is to be elected at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, and in order to secure a proper supervision of the affairs of masonry in both sections of the Province, he shall not be elected from that portion in which the Grand Master resides, and if present is to be immediately installed, according to ancient usage. He must have been Master of some regular Lodge. In the absence of the Grand Master, the Deputy possesses all his powers and privileges.

2. The Deputy Grand Master has full authority, in the absence of the Grand Master, to preside in any Lodge which he may visit with the District Deputy Grand Master on his right hand and the Master of the Lodge on his left hand. The Grand Wardens, if present, are to act as wardens of that particular lodge, during the Deputy Grand Master's continuance there; but, if the Grand Wardens be absent, then the Deputy Grand Master may command the Wardens of the Lodge, or any other master masons to act as his Wardens, *pro tempore*.

3. He may hear and determine any subjects of masonic complaint, or irregularity respecting lodges or individual masons, and may proceed to admonition, or to suspension, until the next meeting of the Grand Lodge, according to the general laws of the craft. A minute of all such proceedings, stating the offence and the law applicable to it, together with his decision, is to be transmitted to the Grand Master through the Grand Secretary. When the case is of so flagrant a nature as, in the judgment of the Deputy Grand Master, to require the erasure of a lodge, or the expulsion

of a brother, he shall inform the Grand Master thereof through the Grand Secretary, and specially notify the same to the Grand Lodge with his opinion thereon.

The Deputy Grand Master has no power to expel a mason, though, when satisfied that any brother has been unjustly or illegally suspended, removed, or excluded from any of his masonic functions or privileges, by a lodge within his district, he may order him to be immediately restored, and may suspend, until the next communication of the Grand Lodge, the lodge or brother who shall refuse to comply with such order.

4. The Deputy Grand Master may summon any lodge or brother to attend him, and to produce the warrant, books, papers, and accounts of such lodge, or the certificate of such brother. If the summons be not complied with nor a sufficient reason given for non-compliance, a peremptory summons shall be issued; and, in case of contumacy the lodge or brother may be suspended, and the proceeding notified to the Grand Lodge and the Grand Master through the Grand Secretary.

5. He has power to give or to refuse consent for the removal of a lodge from town to town, or from one district into another, notifying the Grand Secretary for the information of the Grand Master.

OF DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

1. The District Deputy Grand Master, for each District, shall be nominated by the Lodges in that District and confirmed by the Grand Master at the annual communication in July, and, if present, regularly installed. He must be an installed or Past Master and a resident in the District for which he is appointed. This Officer is invested with a rank and power, in his particular District, in the absence of the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master, similar to those possessed by the Grand Master himself.

2. He may preside in every lodge he visits within his District, with the master of the Lodge on his right hand.

3. He may hear and determine any subject of masonic complaint, or irregularity respecting Lodges or individual masons,

within his district, and may proceed to admonition, or to suspension, until the decision of the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master, shall be made known thereon. A minute of all such proceedings, stating the offence and the law applicable to it, together with his decision, is to be transmitted to the Grand Master through the Grand Secretary, or to the Deputy Grand Master, and when the case is of so flagrant a nature as, in the judgment of the District Deputy Grand Master, to require the erasure of a lodge, or the expulsion of a brother, he shall make a special report to the Grand Lodge, with his opinion thereon.

The District Deputy Grand Master has no power to expel a mason, but when satisfied that any brother has been unjustly or illegally suspended, removed, or excluded from any of his masonic functions or privileges, by a lodge within his district, he shall report the circumstances to the Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master who may order him to be immediately restored, and may suspend until the next communication of the Grand Lodge, the lodge or brother who shall refuse to comply with such order.

4. If the District Deputy Grand Master shall neglect to proceed on any case or business, which may be sent for his decision within a reasonable time, the application or complaint may be transmitted to the Grand Secretary. An appeal, in all cases, lies from the District Deputy Grand Master to the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, or Deputy Grand Master.

5. The District Deputy Grand Master may summon any lodge or brother, within his District to attend him, and to produce the warrant, books, papers, and accounts of such lodge, or the certificate of such brother. If the summons be not complied with nor a sufficient reason given for non-compliance, a peremptory summons shall be issued; and, in case of contumacy, the circumstances are to be reported to the Grand Master, or Deputy Grand Master, who may suspend the lodge or brother, as before provided.

6. He has power to give or refuse consent for the removal of a lodge from town to town, within his District, but not from his District into another, or from another District into his own, without the sanction of the Grand Master, or Deputy Grand Master.

7. He is required to correspond with the Grand Lodge, and to

transmit to the Grand Secretary, at least fourteen days prior to the annual communication, a circumstantial account, in writing, of his proceedings, and of the state of masonry within his District, together with a list of such lodges as may have been constituted since his last return, and the fees due thereon to the Grand Lodge.

OF GRAND WARDENS.

1. The Grand Wardens shall be elected and invested at the annual communication.

2. When the actual Grand Wardens are in the lodge no others can supply their places, but in their absence the senior past Grand Wardens present shall act pro tempore. If no past Grand Warden be present, the Grand Master or presiding officer may direct any other members of Grand Lodge to act as Grand Wardens for that occasion.

3. The Grand Wardens, whenever commanded, are to attend the Grand Master, or Deputy Grand Master, and while he presides in any particular lodge, are to act there as his Wardens.

OF GRAND CHAPLAIN.

The Grand Chaplain shall be elected and invested at the annual communication, and shall attend all communications and other meetings of the Grand Lodge, and there offer up solemn prayer, suitable to the occasion, as established by the usage of the fraternity.

OF GRAND TREASURER.

1. The Grand Treasurer shall be elected and invested at the annual communication.

2. The Grand Treasurer shall give a joint bond, with two sureties, to the Grand Master, and such other trustees as the Grand Lodge shall nominate, in such penalty and with such conditions as may be deemed expedient for the due performance of his trust.

3. To the Grand Treasurer shall be committed all monies raised for the general charity, or for any other public use of the society, of which he shall keep an account in a book, specifying the respective uses for which the several sums are intended ; and shall disburse the same in such manner as the Grand Lodge shall direct, and produce his accounts of receipts and disbursements, before every regular communication ; and these accounts shall be annually audited by a committee, who shall make their report thereon at the annual communication in July.

OF GRAND REGISTRAR.

1. The Grand Registrar shall be elected and invested at the annual communication.

2. He shall have the custody of the seals of the Grand Lodge, and shall affix, or may authorise the Grand Secretary to affix the same to all patents, warrants, certificates, and other documents issued by the authority of the Grand Lodge, as well as such as the Grand Master in conformity with the laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge may direct.

3. He is to superintend the records of the Grand Lodge, and to take care that the several documents issued be in due form.

4. The Grand Master may, by a written document, direct the Grand Registrar to take charge of any District for which there is not a District Deputy Grand Master, and he shall thereby be empowered to perform all the functions of a Deputy District Grand Master.

OF GRAND SECRETARY.

1. The Grand Secretary shall be elected and invested at the annual communication.

2. The Grand Secretary is to sign and certify all instruments from the Grand Lodge, under seal or otherwise ; to issue summonses for all meetings of the Grand Lodge and its committees and to

attend and take minutes of their proceedings, to receive the returns from the several lodges, and enter them in the books of the Grand Lodge, and duly report the same to each communication of the Grand Lodge; to transmit to all the lodges the accounts of the proceedings of every communication or other meeting of Grand Lodge, and all such other papers and documents as may be ordered either by the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, or Grand Lodge, to notify all Lodges, quarterly, of all expelled, suspended, or excluded members, and all rejected candidates, to furnish the District Deputy Grand Masters, with all proper documents and information that they may require, to receive all petitions, memorials, &c., and to lay them before the Grand Master or other proper authority; to attend the Grand Master, or the Deputy Grand Master, and to take to him any books and papers he may direct; to conduct the correspondence of the Grand Lodge, and generally to do all such things as heretofore have been done or ought to have been done by a Grand Secretary.

OF GRAND DEACONS.

1. The Grand Deacons are to be appointed by the Grand Master, on the day of his installation.

2. If the Grand Deacons be absent, the Grand Master or presiding officer may appoint any members of Grand Lodge to officiate pro tempore.

OF GRAND SUPERINTENDENT OF WORKS, GRAND DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES, ASSISTANT GRAND SECRETARY, ASSISTANT GRAND DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES, GRAND SWORD BEARER, GRAND ORGANIST, ASSISTANT GRAND ORGANIST, GRAND PURSUIVANT, GRAND STEWARDS, GRAND STANDARD BEARERS, AND GRAND TYLER.

1. The Grand Superintendent of Works, Director of Ceremonies, Assistant Secretary, Assistant Director of Ceremonies, Sword Bearer, Organist, Assistant Organist, and Pursuivant, Stewards and Standard Bearers are to be appointed annually by the Grand

Master, on the day of his installation. They are to attend all communications and other meetings of the Grand Lodge.

2. The Grand Superintendent of Works ought to be a brother well skilled in the science of geometry and architecture. He is to advise with the proper committees on all plans of buildings or edifices undertaken by the Grand Lodge, and furnish plans and estimates for the same; he is to superintend their construction, and see that they are conformable to the plans approved by the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge; he is to suggest improvements, where necessary, in all the edifices of the Grand Lodge; and, on the first meeting in every year, report on the state of repair or delapidation of such edifices, and make such farther reports, from time to time, as he may deem expedient.

3. *The Grand Director of Ceremonies*, in addition to his other duties, has the care of the regalia, clothing, insignia, and jewels belonging to the Grand Lodge.

4. *The Grand Pursuivant* is to preside over the Masters and Past Masters nominated to attend within the porch of the Grand Lodge. He is, at every meeting of the Grand Lodge, to preserve order in the porch, and with the assistance of the brethren nominated for attendance there, to see that none except those who are qualified, and who have their proper clothing and jewels, and have signed their names to the accustomed papers, and are, in all respects, entitled to admission, be admitted.

5. *Eight Grand Stewards* shall be annually appointed for the regulation of the Grand Festival, under the direction of the Grand Master. They shall also assist in conducting the arrangements made for the communications, and other meetings of the Grand Lodge.

6. *Grand Standard Bearers* may be appointed by the Grand Master, as the occasion may require. They must be Master Masons, and are to carry the standards of the Grand Lodge, and Grand Master, on all Grand Ceremonies. They are not, however, by their appointment, members of the Grand Lodge, nor are they to wear the clothing of a Grand Officer.

Any Grand Officer, entitled to have a Standard, may, whenever it shall be necessary, appoint a Standard Bearer, who must be a Master Mason.

7. *The Grand Tyler* is to be elected by an open vote at the Annual Communication.

The Grand Tyler is to attend all meetings of the Grand Lodge, assist in the arrangements, and see that none be admitted but those properly entitled.

If any Grand Tyler, shall, without the special license of the Grand Master, or Deputy Grand Master, attend at any Masonic funeral, or other public procession, or shall officiate or attend at any meeting or pretended lodge of masons not being regularly constituted, and not acknowledging the authority of the Grand Master, or not conforming to the laws of the Grand Lodge, he shall thereby be rendered incapable of ever after being a Tyler or attendant on a lodge, and be excluded the benefit of the general charity.

OF PRIVATE LODGES.

1. The Officers of a Lodge are, the Master, and his two Wardens, with their Assistants, the two Deacons, Inner Guard, and Tyler; to which, for the better regulation of the private concerns of the Lodge, are to be added a Treasurer and Secretary, and other Officers, viz., a Chaplain, Director of Ceremonies and Stewards may also be added, and shall hold office until their successors shall have been regularly elected or appointed.

2. Every Lodge shall annually elect its Master, Wardens, Chaplain, Treasurer, and Secretary, by ballot, such Master having been regularly elected, and having served as Warden of a warranted Lodge for one year, and, at the next meeting after his election, when the minutes are confirmed, he shall be duly installed in the chair according to ancient usage. He shall then appoint the Deacons, Inner Guard, Director of Ceremonies and Stewards, also all Committees for conducting the business of the Lodge, and shall invest all the elective and appointed Officers. Tylers are to be chosen by an open vote of the Lodge.

3. Every Lodge has the power of framing by-laws for its own government, provided they are not contrary to or inconsistent with the general regulations of the Grand Lodge. The by-laws must be submitted to the District Deputy Grand Master, for the

approbation of the Grand Master, and when approved, a fair copy must be sent to the Grand Secretary, and also to the District Deputy Grand Master ; and, when any alteration shall be made, such alteration must, in like manner, be submitted, and no law or alteration will be valid until so submitted and approved.

The by-laws of the Lodge shall be fairly written in a book, and shall be delivered to the Master on the day of his installation, when he shall solemnly pledge himself to observe and enforce them during his mastership. Every brother shall also sign them when he becomes a member of the lodge, as a declaration of his submission to them, and every member shall at all reasonable times have access to such by-laws, which should be printed for the use of the lodge and delivered to the members.

4. The Master of every Lodge is to cause the ancient charges, the regulations of Grand Lodge relating to Private Lodges, and the by-laws of his Lodge to be read in open Lodge once in every year.

5. The Master is responsible for seeing that a book or books be kept, in which the Secretary shall enter the names of its members and of all persons initiated or admitted therein, with the dates of their proposal, admission, or initiation, passing and raising ; and also their ages, as nearly as possible, at that time, and their titles, professions, or trades, together with such transactions of the Lodge as are proper to be written.

6. The regular days of meeting of the Lodge, shall be specified in the by-laws.

7. A Lodge of emergency, may, at any time, be called by summons, giving seven clear days' notice, by the authority of the Master, or, in his absence, of the Senior Warden, or, in his absence, of the Junior Warden, but on no pretence without such authority. The particular reason for calling the Lodge of emergency shall be expressed in the summons, and, afterwards, recorded on the minutes, and no business but that so expressed shall be entered upon at such meeting.

8. Every Lodge shall keep a book in which each member attending, at each meeting, shall sign his name before entering the

Lodge, and a similar book, or a portion of the same book for visitors, who are in like manner to enter their names, masonic rank, and the name of their mother Lodge and the Lodge hailing from.

9. The precedency of Lodges is derived from the number of their warrant of constitution, as recorded in the books of the Grand Lodge. No Lodge shall be acknowledged nor its officers admitted into the Grand Lodge, nor any of its members entitled to partake of the general charity or other masonic privilege, unless it has been regularly constituted and registered.

10. No Lodge can make a mason or admit a member without strictly complying with all the regulations enacted for the government of the craft on these occasions.

11. No Lodge shall, on any pretence, make more than five new brothers in one day, unless by dispensation; nor shall a lodge be permitted to give more than one degree to a brother on the same day; nor shall a higher degree in Masonry be conferred on any brother at a less interval than one month from his receiving a previous degree, nor until he has passed an examination in open Lodge in that degree.

12. No Lodge shall make a Mason for a less consideration than £3 15s., nor on any pretence remit or defer the payment of any part of this sum. The member who proposes any candidate must be responsible to the Lodge for all the fees payable on account of his initiation.

13. Every Lodge must receive as a member, without further proposition or ballot, any brother initiated therein, provided such brother express his wish to that effect on the day of his initiation, as no Lodge should introduce into Masonry a person whom the brethren might consider unfit to be a member of their own Lodge.

14. Every Lodge must be particularly careful in registering the names of the brethren initiated therein, and also in making the returns of its members, as no person is regularly entitled to partake of the general charity unless his name be duly registered, and he shall have been at least two years a contributing member of a Lodge.

15. To prevent injury to individuals, by their being excluded the privileges of Masonry, through the neglect of their Lodges, in

not registering their names; any brother, so circumstanced, on producing sufficient proof that he has paid the full fees to his Lodge, shall be capable of enjoying the privileges of the craft. But the offending Lodge shall be reported to the Grand Lodge, and rigorously proceeded against for neglecting to make the proper return, and detaining monies which are the property of the Grand Lodge, and which had been paid to the Lodge for specific appropriation.

16. The Master is to see that all monies received or paid on account of the Lodge be entered in proper books by the Secretary and Treasurer, and the account of fees or dues received on account of, and payable to the Grand Lodge, kept separate and distinct from the monies belonging to the private fund of the Lodge. The accounts of the Lodge shall be audited, at least once in every year, by a Committee appointed by the Lodge.

17. Each Lodge shall procure for every brother initiated therein, a Grand Lodge certificate, to be paid for by the Lodge.

18. No Lodge, or Officer or member of a Lodge, shall, under any circumstances, give a certificate or recommendation to enable a Mason to proceed from Lodge to Lodge as a pauper, or in an itinerant manner, to apply to Lodges for relief.

20. No Lodge shall form any public Masonic procession without a license from the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, or District Deputy Grand Master, except in case of funerals—which shall be immediately reported to the Grand Secretary, and the District Deputy Grand Master.

21. All Lodges are particularly bound to observe the same usages and customs; every deviation, therefore, from the established mode of working is highly improper, and cannot be justified or countenanced. In order to preserve this uniformity, and to cultivate a good understanding among Free-Masons, some members of every Lodge should be deputed to visit the other Lodges as often as may be convenient.

22. No brother can be a member of more than one Lodge at the same time; but this law is not to take effect until after the annual communication of Grand Lodge in 1857.

23. Lodges have the power of electing any brother an honorary member of their lodge by a vote of the Lodge.

24. If any brother behave in such a manner as to disturb the harmony of the Lodge, and be thrice formally admonished by the Master ; and persist in his irregular conduct, he shall be punished according to the by-laws of that particular Lodge, or the case may be reported to higher Masonic authority.

25. Every Lodge has the power of excluding a member for gross immoral or infamous conduct, or for non-payment of dues, but no Lodge shall exclude any member without giving him due notice of the charge preferred or complaint made against him, and of the time appointed for its consideration. He shall be at liberty to be present, and be afforded every opportunity of defending himself ; when the case has been investigated he shall withdraw, and the votes of the brethren shall be given openly. The name of every brother excluded, together with the cause of his exclusion, shall be sent to the Grand Secretary ; and also to the District Deputy Grand Master.*

26. A member excluded for non-payment of dues, may be immediately restored by the Lodge, on payment being satisfactorily made, notice thereof, being given to the Grand Secretary and District Deputy Grand Master of the District.

27. The jewels and furniture of every Lodge belong to, and are, the property of the Master, Wardens, and brethren of such Lodge. Nor shall any jewel be worn in a Lodge other than those specified for the Officers, except such honorary or other jewel, as shall appertain to, or be consistent with, those degrees which are recognised and acknowledged by and under the control of the Grand Lodge.

28. All minutes, lists, and books of account, belonging to a Lodge, must be produced by the Master, when he shall be so required by competent authority.

29. The majority of the members of a Lodge, when congregated have the privilege of giving instructions to their Master, Past Masters, and Wardens, before the meeting of the Grand Lodge ; because such Officers are their representatives, and are supposed to speak their sentiments.

* The term *expelled* is used only when a brother is removed from the craft by the Grand Lodge. Upon the removal of a brother from a private Lodge the term *excluded* only is applicable.

30. Each Lodge shall annually make a return to the Grand Secretary of the Masters, Wardens, and Past Masters of the Lodge and including all members who claim to be entitled to attend in a Grand Lodge as Past Masters, as having served the office of Master in some other Lodge, specifying the Lodge in which each of such Past Masters has served the office of Master ; and no brother shall be permitted to attend in Grand Lodge unless his name shall appear in some such return.

31. Each Lodge shall make its returns and payments regularly to the Grand Secretary, and, in case of neglect for one whole year to make such returns and payments, or if the Lodge do not meet during that period, it is liable to be erased. The Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens of a Lodge which shall have neglected for more than one year to make its returns or its payments to the Grand Lodge, are thereby disqualified from attending the Grand Lodge or, sitting upon any Committee, until those returns and payments shall have been completed.

32. By a vote of the Lodge, the fees of any member, in indigent circumstances, may be remitted ; a representation thereof being made to Grand Lodge.

33. If a Lodge be dissolved, the warrant shall be delivered up to the Grand Master.

34. If the warrant or constitution of a Lodge be sold, or procured by any other means than through the regular channel of petition to the Grand Master, or Deputy Grand Master, such warrant shall be forfeited, and the Lodge erased.

35. As every warranted Lodge is a constituent part of the Grand Lodge, in which assembly all the power of the fraternity resides, it is clear that no other authority can destroy the power granted by a warrant ; if, therefore, the majority of any Lodge should determine to quit the Lodge, the constitution, or power of assembling, remains with the rest of the members. If all the members of a Lodge withdraw themselves, their warrant ceases, and becomes extinct ; and all the authority thereby granted, or enjoyed, reverts to the Grand Master.

36. No Lodge shall be erased, or its warrant declared forfeited, until the Master or Officers shall have been warned, in writing, of

their offence, and shall have been summoned to answer to the complaint made against them.

37. If any Lodge, or its Master and Wardens, be summoned to attend, or to produce its warrant, books, papers, or accounts, to the Grand Master, or his Deputy, or the District Deputy Grand Master, or any Committee authorised by the Grand Lodge, and do not comply, or give sufficient reason for non-compliance, a peremptory summons shall be issued ; and in case of contumacy, such Lodge may be suspended, and the proceeding notified to the Grand Lodge.

38. A Lodge offending against any law or regulation of the craft, to the breach of which no specific penalty is attached, shall, at the discretion of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, or District Deputy Grand Master, be subject to admonition or suspension, as before provided.

OF THE MASTERS AND WARDENS OF LODGES.

1. All preferment among Masons shall be grounded upon real worth and personal merit only, therefore no brother shall be elected Master of a Lodge, or appointed to any office therein, merely on account of seniority or rank. No master shall assume the Master's chair until he shall have been regularly installed, though he may, in the interim, rule the Lodge. It is necessary, previously to the installation of the Master, that the minutes of the preceding meeting of the Lodge should be read and confirmed so far, at least, as to the election of the Master, after which the usual ceremonies of installation are to be performed. Should the minutes of the election of Master not be confirmed, then a summons must be issued for the following regular meeting of the Lodge, setting forth that the brethren were again to proceed to elect a Master, and on the confirmation of the minutes of that election in the following ordinary meeting of the Lodge, the installation of Master will follow.

2. Every Master, when placed in the chair shall solemnly pledge himself to observe all the old-established usages and

customs, and to preserve the land-marks of the order, and most strictly to enforce them within his own Lodge.

3. No brother shall continue in the office of Master for more than two years in succession, unless by a dispensation, which may be granted by the Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master in cases of real necessity ; but he may be again elected after he has been out of that office one year.

4. The Master and Wardens of a Lodge are enjoined to visit other Lodges as often as they conveniently can ; in order that the same usages and customs may be observed throughout the craft, and a good understanding be, thereby, cultivated among Free-Masons.

5. The Master is responsible for the due observance of the laws relating to private Lodges, and is bound to produce all books minutes, and accounts, when required by any lawful authority.

6. If the Master should die, be removed, or be incapable of discharging the duties of his office, the senior Warden, and in the absence of the Senior Warden, the junior Warden, shall act as Master, in summoning the Lodge until the next election of officers.

In the Master's absence, the immediate Past Master, or, if he be absent, the senior Past Master of the Lodge present, shall take the chair. If no Past Master of the Lodge be present, then the senior Warden, or, in his absence the Junior Warden may rule the Lodge, but cannot confer degrees.

A Past Master of any other Lodge present at the meeting of a Lodge may be invited to officiate as Master, and may confer degrees or perform any other ceremony.

7. The Master and Wardens of every Lodge, when summoned so to do, shall attend the Grand Master or his Deputy, or the District Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Lodge, or any committee authorized by the Grand Lodge ; and produce the warrant, minutes, and books of the Lodge, under pain of suspension, and being reported to the next Grand Lodge.

8. The Wardens or Officers of a Lodge cannot resign their offices nor can they be removed, unless for a cause which appears

to the Lodge to be sufficient ; but the Master, if he be dissatisfied with the conduct of any of his officers, may lay the cause of complaint before the Lodge ; and if it shall appear, to the majority of the brethren present, that the complaint be well founded, he shall have power to displace such officer, and another must be elected or appointed in his place.

OF TYLERS.

1. The Tyler is chosen by the members of the Lodge, and may, at any time, be removed, for cause deemed sufficient by a majority of the brethren present, at a regular meeting of the Lodge.

2. He is to see that every member and visitor has signed his name to the attendance book before entering the Lodge, and that he is provided with proper clothing.

3. If any Tyler, without the licence of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, or a District Deputy Grand Master, shall attend at any masonic procession, except a Masonic Funeral, or shall officiate or attend at any meeting, or pretended Lodge of masons, not being regularly constituted and not acknowledging the authority of the Grand Master, or not conforming to the laws of the Grand Lodge, he shall thereby be rendered incapable of ever after being a Tyler, or attendant on a Lodge, and shall be excluded the benefit of the general charity.

OF MEMBERS AND THEIR DUTY.

1. No brother shall be admitted a member of a Lodge, unless the laws of the craft, relating to the proposing and admitting of candidates, shall have been strictly complied with. (See Proposing Members.)

2. A brother who has been concerned in making Masons clandestinely, or at a Lodge which is not a regular Lodge, or for small and unworthy considerations, or who may assist in forming a new Lodge without the Grand Master's authority, shall not be admitted

as a member, nor even as a visitor, into any regular Lodge, nor partake of the general charity or other masonic privilege, till he make due submission, and obtain grace.

3. No brother shall presume to print or publish, or cause to be printed or published, the proceedings of any Lodge, or any part thereof, or the names of the persons present at such Lodge, without the direction of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, or District Deputy Grand Master, under pain of being expelled from the order.

This law is not to extend to the writing, printing, or publishing of any notice or summons issued to the members of a Lodge, by the authority of the Master, or the proceedings of any festival or public meeting at which persons not Masons are permitted to be present.

4. Any brother who shall violate the secrecy of the ballot by stating how he voted on any question, or by endeavouring to ascertain how a brother voted, or if he should be aware and mention it to another brother, shall render himself liable to severe masonic censure, and for a second offence to expulsion.

5. The majority of the members present at any Lodge duly summoned, have an undoubted right to regulate their own proceedings, provided that they are consistent with the general laws and regulations of the craft; no member, therefore, shall be permitted to enter in the minute book of his Lodge a protest against any resolution or proceeding which may have taken place, unless it shall appear to him to be contrary to the laws and usages of the craft, and for the purpose of complaining or appealing to a higher masonic authority.

6. If any member shall be excluded from his Lodge, or shall withdraw himself from it, without having complied with its by-laws, or with the general regulations of the craft, he shall not be eligible for admission to any other Lodge, until that Lodge shall have been made acquainted with his former neglect, so that the brethren may be enabled to exercise their discretion as to his admission. Whenever a member of any Lodge shall resign, or shall be excluded, or whenever, at a future time, he may require it, he shall be furnished with a certificate, stating the circumstances

under which he left the Lodge ; and such certificate is to be produced to any other Lodge of which he is proposed to be admitted a member, previous to the ballot being taken.

7. All differences between or complaints of members, that cannot be accommodated privately, or in some regular Lodge, shall be reduced into writing and delivered to the Grand Secretary, who shall lay them before the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, or the District Deputy Grand Master, or the Committee appointed by the Grand Lodge. When all parties shall have been summoned to attend thereon, and the case shall have been investigated, such order and adjudication may be made as shall be authorized by the laws and regulations of Masonry.

8. A Mason offending against any law or regulation of the craft to the breach of which no specific penalty is attached, shall, at the discretion of the Grand Lodge, or any of its delegated authorities, be subject to admonition or suspension, or, by the Grand Lodge, only, to expulsion.

OF PROPOSING MEMBERS.

Great discredit and injury having been brought upon our ancient and honorable fraternity from admitting members, and receiving candidates, without due notice being given, or inquiry made into their characters and qualifications ; and, also, from the passing and raising of Masons without due instructions in the respective degrees, it is determined, that, in future, a violation or neglect of any of the following laws shall subject the Lodge offending to erasure, because no emergency can be allowed as a justification.*

1. No brother shall be admitted a member of a Lodge without a regular proposition in open Lodge, nor until his name, occupation, and place of abode, as well as the name and number of the Lodge of which he is or was last a member, or in which he was initiated, shall have been sent to all the members in the summons for the next stated Lodge meeting ; and the decision of the brethren ascertained by ballot. When a Lodge has ceased to meet, any

* A dispensation cannot, in any case, be granted.

former member thereof shall be eligible to be proposed and admitted a member of another Lodge, on producing a certificate from the Grand Secretary, stating the fact, and specifying whether the brother has been registered and his dues paid.

2. No person shall be made a Mason unless he has resided one year in the district of the Lodge to which he seeks admission, or produces a certificate from a Lodge in the place of his previous residence, nor until he has been properly proposed at one regular meeting of the Lodge, and a Committee has been appointed by the Worshipful Master to make the necessary enquiries into the character of the Candidate, and his name, age, and addition or profession, and place of abode. shall have been sent to all the members in the summons for the next regular meeting, when, after the Committee have reported to the Lodge, he must be balloted for, and, if approved, he may be initiated into the first degree of Masonry.

In cases of emergency, the following alteration, as to the mode of proposing a candidate, is allowed. Any two members of a Lodge may transmit, in writing, to the Master, the name, &c., of any candidate whom they wish to propose, and the circumstances which cause the emergency ; and the Master, if the emergency be proper, shall notify the said recommendation to every member of his Lodge, stating the name, age, addition or profession, and place of abode, of the candidate ; and may appoint a Committee as above provided, and, at the same time, summon a Lodge to meet at a period of not less than seven clear days from the issuing of the summons, for the purpose of balloting for the candidate and if the candidate be then approved, he may be initiated into the first degree of Masonry. The Master shall, previous to the ballot being taken, cause the said proposition, and the emergency stated, to be recorded in the minute-book of the Lodge.

3. No man shall be made a Mason in any Lodge, under the age of twenty-one years, unless by dispensation from the Grand Master, or the Deputy Grand Master, nor shall any dispensation suspend the operations of the law requiring seven days notice, or Committee of Enquiry, or the ballot. Every candidate must be free-born, and his own master, and, at the time of initiation, be

known to be in reputable circumstances. He should be a lover of the liberal arts and sciences, and have made some progress in one or other of them; and he must, previous to his initiation, subscribe his name in full length, to a declaration of the following import,* viz.

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens, Officers, and members of the Lodge of

No.

I, _____ being free by birth, and of the full age of twenty-one years, do declare, that unbiassed by the improper solicitation of friends, and uninfluenced by mercenary or other unworthy motive, I freely and voluntarily offer myself a candidate for the mysteries of Masonry; that I am prompted by a favorable opinion conceived of the institution, and a desire of knowledge; and that I will cheerfully conform to all the ancient usages and established customs of the order. Witness my hand, this _____ day of _____

Witness.

NOTE.—A Petition having been received cannot be withdrawn.

4. No person can be made a Mason in, or admitted a member of a Lodge, if on the ballot two black balls appear against him.—Some Lodges wish for no such indulgence, but require the unanimous consent of the members present; the by-laws of each Lodge must, therefore, guide them in this respect; but if there be two black balls, such person cannot on any pretence, be admitted.

5. Every candidate shall, on his initiation, solemnly promise to submit to the constitutions, and to conform to all the usages and regulations of the craft, intimated to him in time and place convenient; and if intending to join the Lodge he must sign the by-laws of the Lodge on his initiation.

6. No rejected candidate can be balloted for in the same, or any other Lodge, within six months of the time of his rejection.

* Any individual who cannot write is consequently ineligible to be admitted into the order.

OF THE LODGE SEAL.

Every Private Lodge shall have a Masonic Seal, to be affixed to all documents proper to be issued.

An impression of the Seal is to be sent to the Grand Secretary, and, also to the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and the District Deputy Grand Master ; and whenever changed, an impression of the new seal shall, in like manner, be transmitted.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

1. No general Lodge of instruction shall be holden unless under the sanction of a regular warranted Lodge, or by the special license and authority of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, or a District Deputy Grand Master. The Lodge giving its sanction, and the brethren to whom such license is granted, shall be answerable for the proceedings of such Lodge of instruction and responsible that the mode of working there adopted has received the sanction of the Grand Lodge.

Notice of the times and places of meeting of the Lodge of Instruction shall be given to the Grand Secretary.

2. Lodges of Instruction shall keep a minute of all brethren present at each meeting, and of brethren appointed to hold office, and such minutes shall be produced when called for by the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, or District Deputy Grand Master, or the Lodge granting the sanction.

3. If a Lodge which has given its sanction for a Lodge of Instruction being held under its warrant shall see fit, it may at any regular meeting withdraw that sanction by a resolution of the Lodge, to be communicated to the Lodge of Instruction.— Provided notice of the intention to withdraw the sanction be inserted in the summons for that meeting.

OF VISITORS.

1. No visitor shall be admitted into a Lodge, unless he be personally known or recommended, or well vouched for, and after due examination by one or more of the brethren present, and shall have entered his name, his masonic rank, the name of his mother Lodge and the Lodge hailing from, in a book to be kept by every Lodge for the purpose; and during his continuance in the Lodge he must be subject to the by-laws of the Lodge. The master of the Lodge is particularly bound to enforce these regulations.

2. No brother residing in the Province, and not affiliating with some Lodge shall be entitled to the benefit of the Benevolent Fund for himself or family, to masonic burial, nor to take part in any masonic ceremony, public or private, nor entitled to any masonic privilege whatever, nor can he be permitted to visit any one Lodge in the town or place where he resides more than once during his secession from the craft.

The attention of the brethren is particularly called to the exercise of the greatest caution in vouching for brethren.

OF CERTIFICATES.

1. Every brother shall be entitled to a Grand Lodge Certificate, immediately upon his being registered in the books of the Grand Lodge, for which certificate the Lodge shall pay ten shillings.— Each Lodge, therefore, when it makes a return of the Masons whom it has initiated, shall, in addition to the register fee, make a remittance of the money for the Certificate.

2. Every brother to whom a Grand Lodge Certificate is granted must sign his name in the margin thereof, or it will not be valid. This should be done in the presence of the Worshipful Master, or Secretary of the Lodge.

3. No brother shall obtain a Grand Lodge Certificate if he shall have been admitted to more than one degree of Masonry on the same day, or at a shorter interval than one month from his receiving a previous degree, unless by dispensation from the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master.

Every return, or other document upon which a Grand Lodge Certificate is to be issued, must specify not only the date of initiation, but also the days on which the brother was advanced to the second and third degrees.

4. All applications for Grand Lodge Certificates must be made to the Grand Secretary ; and if the name of the brother wishing for the certificate has not previously been registered, the money payable on registration must be transmitted at the same time ; as no Certificate can, on any account, be issued, until such money has been paid.

5. No Lodge shall grant a Private Lodge Certificate to a brother, except for the purpose of enabling him to obtain a Grand Lodge Certificate, (in which case such certificate shall be specifically addressed to the Grand Secretary) ; and except also such certificates as may be required by the laws of the Grand Lodge, or called for by any of its Committees, or issued to a member on retirement or exclusion from a Lodge for the purpose of evidence of standing. Nor shall a Lodge under any pretence, make a charge for a Private Lodge Certificate.

OF PUBLIC PROCESSIONS.

1. No public procession shall, on any pretence, be allowed, without the licence of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, or District Deputy Grand Master, except a masonic funeral, the urgency of which will not admit of the delay necessary to communicate with the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, or the District Deputy Grand Master. Such proceeding shall be immediately reported by the Master of the Lodge to the Grand Master through the Grand Secretary, or to the Deputy Grand Master or the District Deputy Grand Master.

2. If any brother shall attend as a mason, clothed in any of the jewels or badges of the craft, at any public procession, except a masonic funeral, without the permission of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, or District Deputy Grand Master, he shall be rendered incapable of ever after being an officer of a Lodge, and also be excluded the benefit of the general charity. And if any Lodge shall so offend, it shall stand suspended until the Grand Lodge shall determine thereon.

OF APPEAL.

As the Grand Lodge, when congregated, is a representation of every individual member of the fraternity, it necessarily possesses a supreme superintending authority, and the power of finally deciding on every case which concerns the interest of the craft.— Any Lodge or brother, therefore, who may feel aggrieved by the decision of any other masonic authority or jurisdiction, may appeal to the Grand Lodge against such decision. The appeal must be made in writing, specifying the particular grievance complained of, and be transmitted to the Grand Secretary. A notice and copy of the appeal must also be sent by the appellant to the party against whose decision the appeal is made.

All appeals must be made in proper and respectful language ; no others will be received.

FEEES.

The following shall be the fees payable to the Grand Lodge :—

For granting a new warrant, seven pounds ten shillings.

For a dispensation for a new Lodge, five pounds.

For a warrant of Confirmation, two pounds ten shillings.

For a new warrant in case of loss by fire or otherwise properly certified, two pounds ten shillings.

For a dispensation to initiate a candidate under 21 years of age, five pounds.

For a dispensation to confer any degree in less time than provided by the constitution, five pounds.

For a dispensation to initiate more than five masons in a day, for each one beyond that number, one pound.

For a dispensation for any public procession, five shillings.

For a Grand Lodge certificate, ten shillings, and two shillings and six pence Registration fee.

For every person initiated into a Lodge, ten shillings for a Grand Lodge certificate, and five shillings Registration fee.

For every E. A. or F. C. joining from without the jurisdiction, seven shillings and six pence.

For every M. M., joining, from without the jurisdiction five shillings.

Every member of each Lodge shall pay toward the fund for Grand Lodge purposes, two shillings and six pence per annum.

ALLOWANCES TO REPRESENTATIVES.

One representative from each Lodge shall be entitled to receive his actual travelling expenses, at the rates established by the proprietors of public conveyances, which he shall take in coming directly from his Lodge to the place of meeting, and returning thereto, as charged by said proprietors at the time, and also for each day's attendance, ten shillings. But though he represent more than one Lodge, he shall receive pay only as for one Lodge; nor shall he receive more than the aggregate dues of the Lodge or Lodges he shall represent.

Grand Officers, shall be entitled to the like compensation, from the funds of the Grand Lodge.

Absence of a Grand Officer, or Representative, before the close of the communication, from any cause except sickness or calamity to himself, or his family, shall forfeit all claim to payment or compensation under the two next preceding sections.

These Regulations to remain in abeyance until declared operative by a vote of Grand Lodge.

OF REGALIA.

The following masonic clothing and insignia shall be worn by the craft; and no brother shall, on any pretence, be admitted into the Grand Lodge, or any subordinate Lodge without his proper clothing.

No honorary or other jewel or emblem shall be worn in the Grand Lodge or any subordinate Lodge which shall not appertain to or be consistent with those degrees which are recognized and acknowledged by the Grand Lodge.

JEWELS.

<i>The Grand Master</i> ,.....	The compasses extended to 45°, with the segment of a circle at the points and a gold plate included, on which is to be represented an eye irradiated within a triangle also irradiated.
<i>Past Grand Masters</i> ,.....	A similar jewel, without the gold plate.
<i>Deputy Grand Master</i> ,.....	The compasses and square united, with a five pointed star in the centre.
<i>Past Deputy Grand Master</i>	The compasses and square only.
<i>District Deputy Grand Master</i>	The compasses and square united, with a five pointed star in the centre, the whole to be placed within a circle, on which the name of the District is to be engraved.
<i>Past District Deputy Grand Masters</i> .	The same, omitting the five pointed star in the centre.
<i>Senior Grand Warden</i> ,.....	The level.
<i>Junior Grand Warden</i> ,.....	The plumb.
<i>Grand Chaplains</i> ,.....	A book, with a triangle.
<i>Grand Treasurer</i> ,.....	A chased key.
<i>Grand Registrar</i> ,.....	A scroll.

<i>Grand Secretary</i> ,.....	Cross pens, with a tie.
<i>Grand Deacons</i> ,.....	Dove and Olive Branch.
<i>Grand Superintendent of Works</i> ,....	A semicircle protractor.
<i>Grand Director of Ceremonies</i> ,.....	Cross rods.
<i>Assistant Ditto</i> ,.....	Ditto.
<i>Grand Sword Bearer</i> ,.....	Cross swords.
<i>Grand Organist</i> ,.....	A lyre.
<i>Grand Pursuivant</i> ,.....	Arms of the Grand Lodge with rod and sword crossed.

The jewels of the Grand Chaplain, Treasurer, Registrar, Secretary, Senior Deacon, Superintendent of Works, Directors of Ceremonies, Sword-bearer, Organist, and Pursuivant, are to be within a circle with an embossed wreath composed of a spring of acacia and an ear of corn; and of the Junior Grand Deacon, Assistant Grand Secretary, and Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, and Assistant Grand Organist, to be similar to those of their senior and Superior officers, the wreath on the band being omitted.

The jewel of a Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge is—A cornucopia between the legs of a pair of compasses extended upon an irradiated gold plate, within a circle, on which is engraven “Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada.”

<i>Grand Tyler</i> ,.....	The sword in a circle on which is engraven, “Grand Lodge of Canada Grand Tyler.”
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All the above jewels to be gold or gilt.

<i>Master of Lodges</i> ,.....	The square.
<i>Past Masters</i> ,.....	The square and the diagram of the 47th prop. 1st B. of Euclid, engraven on a silver plate, pendant within it.
<i>Senior Warden</i> ,.....	The level.
<i>Junior Warden</i> ,.....	The plumb.
<i>Treasurer</i> ,.....	The key.
<i>Secretary</i> ,.....	The cross pens.
<i>Deacons</i> ,.....	The dove.

Inner Guard,..... Cross swords.
Tyler,..... The sword.

All the above jewels to be of silver.

COLLARS.

Of Lodges.—To be light blue ribbon, four inches broad : if silver chain be used, it must be placed over the light-blue ribbon.

Of the Grand Lodge.—To be of Garter blue ribbon, four inches broad, and bound with gold lace.

The Grand Stewards of the year to wear collars of crimson four inches broad, bound with silver lace.

Past Grand Officers to wear the collars of their late offices, but without the pendant jewel—a similar but smaller jewel in enamel, being worn on the breast.

In the Grand Lodge and on all occasions where the Grand Officers appear in their official capacities, they shall wear the following regalia :

Grand Master,..... Chain over blue collar,
gauntlets and apron, all bound and embroidered, and
jewel.

Deputy Grand Master,..... Chain over blue collar,
gauntlets and apron, all bound and embroidered, and
jewel.

District Deputy Grand Master,..... Blue collar, gauntlets and
apron, all bound and embroidered, and jewel.

<i>Senior and Junior Wardens</i> ,.....	}	Blue collar, gauntlets and apron, all bound and Jewel.
<i>Chaplain</i> ,.....		
<i>Treasurer</i> ,.....		
<i>Registrar</i> ,.....		
<i>Secretary</i> ,.....		

All other Grand Officers,..... Blue collar and apron all
bound, and jewel.

APRONS.

Entered Apprentice.—A plain white lamb skin, from fourteen to sixteen inches wide, twelve to fourteen inches deep, square at bottom, and without ornament ; white strings.

Fellow Craft.—A plain white lamb skin, similar to that of the entered apprentice, with the addition only of two sky-blue rosettes at the bottom.

Master Mason.—The same, with sky-blue lining and edging, one and a half inch deep, and an additional rosette on the fall or flap, and silver tassels. No other colour or ornament shall be allowed except to officers and past officers of lodges, who may have the emblems of their offices in silver or white in the centre of the apron.

The Masters and Past Masters of Lodges to wear, in lieu and in the place of the three rosettes on the master's apron, perpendicular lines upon horizontal lines, thereby forming three several sets of two right angles : the length of the horizontal lines to be two inches and a half each, and of the perpendicular lines one inch ; these emblems to be of ribbon, half an inch broad, and of the same colour as the lining and edging of the apron or of silver. If grand officers, similar emblems, of garter-blue or gold.

Grand Stewards, present and past.—Aprons of the same dimensions, lined with crimson, edging three and a half inches, bound with silver, and silver tassels.

Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge, present and past.—Aprons of the same dimensions, lined with garter-blue, edging three and a half inches bound with gold, and gold tassels, with the emblems of their offices, in gold or blue, in the centre.

The apron of the District Deputy Grand Masters to have the emblem of their office in gold embroidery, in the centre, and the acacia and seven-eared wheat embroidered on the edging, one on each side.

The apron of the Deputy Grand Master to have the emblem of his office in gold embroidery in the centre, and the pomegranate and lotus alternately embroidered in gold on the edging.

The apron of the Grand Master is ornamented with the blazing sun embroidered in gold in the centre, on the edging the

pomegranate and lotus with the seven eared wheat at each corner, and also on the fall ; all in gold embroidery ; the fringe of gold bullion.

Every application for a warrant to hold a new Lodge must be by petition to the Grand Master, signed by at least seven regularly registered masons ; and the Lodges to which they formerly belonged must be specified. The petition must be recommended by the officers of some regular Lodge, and be transmitted to the District Deputy Grand Master, who is to forward it, with his recommendation and opinion thereon to the Grand Secretary, to be submitted to the Grand Master, or the Deputy Grand Master. If the prayer of the petition be granted, the Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master may issue a dispensation, authorizing the brethren to meet as a Lodge, until a warrant of constitution be granted by the Grand Lodge.

The following is the form of the petition :—

“To the M. W. Grand Master of the Fraternity of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada :

“ We, the undersigned, being regular registered masons of the Lodges mentioned against our respective names, having the prosperity of the craft at heart, are anxious to exert our best endeavours to promote and diffuse the genuine principles of the art ; and, for the conveniency of our respective dwellings and other good reasons, we are desirous of forming a new lodge to be named

In consequence of this desire, we pray for a warrant of constitution, empowering us to meet as a regular Lodge, at

on the of every month, and there to discharge the duties of masonry, in a constitutional manner, according to the forms of the order, and the laws of the Grand Lodge : and we have nominated and do recommend brother [A. B.] to be the first master, brother [C. D.] to be the first Senior Warden, and brother [E. F.] to be the first Junior Warden, of the said Lodge. The prayer of this petition being granted, we promise strict obedience to the commands of the Grand Master and the laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge.”

In order to avoid irregularities, every new Lodge should be solemnly constituted by the Grand Master, with his Deputy and

Wardens ; or in the absence of the Grand Master, by his Deputy or the District Deputy Grand Master of that District, who shall choose some master of a lodge to assist him. If both those officers be absent, the Grand Master may appoint some other grand officer or Master of a Lodge to act as deputy pro tempore.

The following is the manner of constituting a new Lodge, according to the ancient usages of Masons.

A Lodge is duly formed ; and, after prayer, an ode in honor of masonry is sung. The Grand Master is then informed, by the Secretary, that the brethren present desire to be formed into a new Lodge, &c., &c. The petition, the dispensation, and the warrant or charter of constitution, are now read. The minutes of the Lodge, while under dispensation, are likewise read ; and, being approved, are declared regular and valid, and signed by the Grand Master. The Grand Master then inquires if the brethren approve of the officers who are nominated in the warrant to preside over them.— This being signified in masonic form, an oration on the nature and design of the institution is delivered. The lodge is then consecrated according to ceremonies proper and usual on those occasions, but not proper to be written, and the Grand Master constitutes the lodge in ancient form.

The candidates, or the new Master and Wardens, being yet among the brethren, the Grand Master asks his Deputy, if he hath examined them, and found the candidate master well skilled in the noble science and the royal art, and duly instructed in our mysteries, &c. The deputy answering in the affirmative, he shall (by the Grand Master's order) take the candidate from among his fellows, and present him to the Grand Master ; saying, " Most Worshipful Grand Master, I present this my worthy brother to be installed Master of the Lodge, whom I know to be of good morals and great skill, true and trusty, and a lover of the whole fraternity wheresoever dispersed over the face of the earth."

Then the Grand Master, placing the candidate on his left hand, having asked and obtained the unanimous consent of all the brethren, shall say : " I appoint you the Master of this Lodge, not doubting your capacity and care to preserve the cement of the Lodge," &c., with some other expressions that are proper and usual on that occasion, but not proper to be written.

Upon this, the Deputy shall rehearse the charges and regulations of a Master, and the Grand Master shall ask the candidate, saying, "Do you submit to these charges and promise to uphold these regulations, as Masters have done in all ages?" The candidate signifying his cordial submission thereunto, the Grand Master shall, by certain significant ceremonies and ancient usages, instal him, and present him with the constitutions, the lodge-book, and the instruments of his office, not altogether, but one after another; and after each of them, the Grand Master, or his Deputy, shall rehearse the short and pithy charge that is suitable to the thing presented.

After this, the members of this new Lodge, bowing all together to the Grand Master, shall return him thanks, and immediately do their homage to their new master, and signify their promise of subjection and obedience to him, by the usual congratulation.

The Deputy and the Grand Wardens, and any other brethren present, that are not members of the new Lodge, shall next congratulate the new Master; and he shall return his becoming acknowledgment to the Grand Master first, and to the rest in their order.

Then the Grand Master desires the new master to enter immediately upon the exercise of his office, in naming his Wardens: and the new Master, calling forth the two brothers, presents them to the Grand Master, for his approbation. That being granted the senior or junior Grand Warden, or some brother for him, shall rehearse the charges of Wardens: and the candidates being solemnly asked, by the new Master, shall signify their submission thereunto.

Upon which, the new master, presenting them with the instruments of their office, shall, in due form, instal them in their proper places: and the brethren shall signify their obedience to the new Wardens, by the usual congratulation. The other elected officers of the Lodge, and those appointed, are then invested in ancient form.

The Lodge being thus completely constituted, shall be registered in the Grand Master's book, and by his order notified to the other Lodges.

The Most Worshipful the Grand Master appointed the following brethren a committee to prepare the Book of Constitutions for circulation, namely :

R. W. Bros. Stephens and Harris, and V. W. Bro. Osborne.

On the application of the W.M. of St. John's Lodge of London, and of the S.W. of St. John's Lodge of Higersoll, permission was granted to the officers of those Lodges, to continue to wear their present regalia, until they have procured that in accordance with the constitution.

The M. W. Grand Master was pleased to appoint the following brethren a Committee, to divide the Province into Districts:—
R. W. Bros. Bernard, Stephens, Lundy, and W. Br. Moffatt.

The M. W. the Grand Master then announced that the first business of the afternoon sitting of the Grand Lodge would be the election of Grand Officers for the ensuing masonic year.

The Grand Lodge was then called from labor to refreshment, to meet at 3. p. m.

The Grand Lodge resumed its sitting at 3. p. m.

The M. W. Grand Master on the Throne.

The M. W. Grand Master nominated R. W. Bros. Bellhouse and Daniell, and W. Br. Smith, Scrutineers, for taking the votes of the Brethren in the election of Grand Officers.

The election of Grand Officers was then proceeded with, and the following Brethren were declared duly elected :

The M. W. Br. W. Mercer Wilson,	M. W. Grand Master.
R. " " A. Bernard,	Deputy Grand Master.
" " J. H. Isaacsen,	Grand Senior Warden.
" " Charles Magill,	" Junior Warden.
" The Rev. St. Geo. Caulfield,	" Chaplain.
R. W. " Wm. Bellhouse,	" Treasurer.
" " " T. B. Harris,	" Registrar.
V. " " John Osborne,	" Grand Secretary.

An open vote having been taken for Grand Tyler, Br. John Morrison was declared elected.

The Grand Master then appointed a Committee, composed of R. W. Brs. Bernard, Stephens and Simpson, for arranging the numbers of the various affiliated Lodges, according to the respective dates of their formation.

The Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment, to meet at 7 o'clock, p. m.

The Grand Lodge resumed its sitting at 8 o'clock, p. m.

The M. W. Grand Master on the Throne.

The Committee appointed for the division of the Province into Districts, presented their Report, and on motion it was *Resolved*, That the Province be divided into the following seven masonic Districts, viz :

No. 1.—THE LONDON DISTRICT—

To comprise that portion of the Province lying between its extreme Western boundary and the Eastern boundaries of the Counties of Perth, Middlesex, Elgin, Huron and Bruce.

No. 2.—THE HAMILTON DISTRICT—

To comprise that portion of the Province lying between the London District and the River Credit.

No. 3.—THE TORONTO DISTRICT—

To comprise that portion of the Province lying between the Rivers Credit and Trent, including the carrying place.

No. 4.—THE CENTRAL DISTRICT—

To comprise all that portion of the Province lying between the River Trent and Lower Canada, including Prince Edward's Island.

No. 5.—THE MONTREAL DISTRICT—

To comprise all that portion lying between Western Canada and the Richelieu and St. Lawrence Rivers, including Sorel.

No. 6.—THE EASTERN TOWNSHIP DISTRICT—

To comprise all that portion lying South-east of the Richelieu and the St. Lawrence Rivers.

No. 7.—THE QUEBEC DISTRICT—

To comprise the remaining part of Lower Canada.

FIRST G. A. COMMUNICATION—HAMILTON, 5856. 71

On motion of R. W. Br. Simpson, seconded by R. W. Br. Stephens, it was unanimously

RESOLVED :

That the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, be held at the City of Montreal.

R. W. Br. Simpson gave notice that at the Grand Lodge meeting to-morrow he would move

That this Grand Lodge meet annually on the second Wednesday in July, instead of the first Wednesday as now stated in the Constitution.

R. W. Br. Daniell gave notice that at the Grand Lodge meeting to-morrow, he would move

To amend Section 8, of the Constitution, to make it read, That no Brother, except the Grand Chaplain, shall be eligible to any office in the Grand Lodge, unless he has been regularly installed Worshipful Master of a private Lodge.

The Grand Lodge was then called from labor to refreshment, to meet again the following morning at 10 o'clock.

FRIDAY, July 11.

The Grand Lodge resumed its sitting at one o'clock.

The M. W. Grand Master on the Throne.

The Committee appointed by the Grand Lodge to arrange the numbers of the warrants of the affiliating lodges presented the following report, which was on motion unanimously adopted.

The Committee appointed to determine the respective numbers of the Lodges under this jurisdiction, adopting the principle determined upon by this Grand Lodge, have the honor to submit the following catalogue :—

No. 1.—Lodge of Social and Military Virtues, Montreal.	
2.—NiagaraLodge.....	Niagara.
3.—Barton..... “	Hamilton.
4.—Union “	Grimsby.
5.—Norfolk..... “	Simcoe.
6.—Sussex..... “	Brockville.
7.—Prevost..... “	Dunham.
8.—Golden Rule... “	Stanstead.
9.—St. George's... “	St. Catharines.
10.—Prince Edward “	Picton.

No. 11.—Nelson	Lodge.....	Clarenceville.
12.—St. Andrew's..	"	St. Andrew's.
13.—St. George's...	"	Montreal.
14.—St. John's.....	"	London.
15.—Zetland.....	"	Montreal.
16.—King Solomon.	"	Toronto.
17.—Lodge of Strict Observance.....		Hamilton.
18.—St. John's.....	Lodge.....	Cayuga.
19.—Thistle.....	"	Amherstburgh.
20.—St. John's.....	"	Hamilton.
21.—St. Thomas....	"	St. Thomas.
22.—Brant.....	"	Brantford.
23.—Great Western.	"	Windsor.
24.—Wellington.....	"	Dunnville.
25.—Shefford.....	"	Waterloo.
26.—Vaughan.....	"	Maple.
27.—Harmony.....	"	Binbrook.
28.—Wellington....	"	Stratford.
29.—Hoyle.....	"	La Colle.
30.—Acacia	"	Hamilton.
31.—St. Andrew's...	"	Caledonia.
32.—Kilwinning....	"	London.
33.—Rehoboam.....	"	Toronto.
34.—Jacques Cartier	"	Montreal.
35.—St. Francis.....	"	Melbourne.
36.—St. John's.....	"	Ingersoll.
37.—King.....	"	King.
38.—Victoria.....	"	Sherbrooke.
39.—Alma	"	Galt.

Your Committee regret that several Lodges affiliated with the Grand Lodge of Canada, have failed to furnish the returns required by the Grand Lodge, in order to enable your Committee to ascertain their proper numerical position.

R. W. Br. Simpson, moved in accordance with notice given on the previous day.

That the Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge be held on the second Wednesday, instead of the first Wednesday in July, as stated in the Constitution,

Which was seconded by W. Br. Bungay, and unanimously adopted.

R. W. Br. Daniell moved, in accordance with notice given on the previous day,

That Section 8 of the Constitution be altered to read, That no Brother except the Grand Chaplain shall be eligible to any office in the Grand Lodge, unless he has been regularly installed Worshipful Master of a private Lodge.

In amendment, it was moved by R. W. Br. Bellhouse, seconded by R. W. Br. Harris,

That the word "elective" be prefixed to the word "office" in the motion of R. W. Br. Daniell.

And the motion, as amended, was unanimously adopted.

The Grand Lodge was then called from labor to refreshment till half-past 3 o'clock, p. m.

The Grand Lodge resumed its sitting at half-past 3 p. m.

The M. W. Grand Master on the Throne.

The M. W. the Grand Master was pleased to confirm the nomination by the Lodges of the respective Districts of

R. W. Br. James Daniell	as D. D. G. M. for the London District.
" " " W. C. Stephens	" " Hamilton "
" " " G. L. Allen	" " Toronto "
" " " W. B. Simpson	" " Central "
" " " P. D. Brown	" " Montreal "

The M. W. Grand Master was then pleased to appoint the following Brethren :

V. W. Br. James Moffat,	as Grand Senior Deacon.
" " " J. E. Smith,	" Junior Deacon.
" " " F. J. Rastrick,	" Superintendent of Works.
" " " J. C. Spence,	" Director of Ceremonies.
" " " R. A. Malcolm,	Assistant Grand Secretary.
" " " G. W. Powell,	" " D. of Ceremonies.
" " " J. W. Haldimand,	Grand Sword Bearer.
" " " W. T. Thomas,	" Organist.
" " " R. J. Fowler,	Assistant Grand Organist.
" " " Samuel Ross,	Grand Pursuivant.
" " " E. Morris,	} Grand Stewards.
" " " Dr. Fowler,	
" " " A. S. Abbott,	
" " " Dr. H. Crouse,	
" " " Thos. Fletcher,	
" " " J. R. Carroll,	
" " " D. Barker	

The Grand Officers for the ensuing year, present, were then installed, invested and proclaimed in due and ancient form.

R. W. Br. Lundy gave notice that he would at the next meeting move, seconded by R. W. Br. G. H. Allen,

That so much of the Constitution of this Grand Lodge as restricts a brother from being a member of more than one Lodge be repealed.

The Committee appointed to consider the application of the brethren in Kingston for a warrant for the Cataraqui Lodge, then presented the following Report, which was, on motion of Br. Martin, seconded by R. W. Br. Daniell, unanimously adopted :

“That your Committee consider it to be the imperative duty of the Grand Lodge to require in every case a perfect compliance with its Constitution, and therein they find it provided that every application for a warrant to hold a new Lodge must be recommended by the Officers of some regular Lodge, and also, that the place of holding the meetings of the Lodge shall be stated in the petition. These conditions have not been complied with in the petition referred to, and your Committee conceiving that it is not in the power of the Grand Lodge, without special resolution, to dispense with these requirements, recommend that the application be returned to the Brethren by the Grand Secretary, with a request that these omissions may be supplied, and that a warrant or dispensation should then be granted.”

The Committee appointed to consider and report on the address of the Grand Master, read the following report,

Report of the Committee on the Address of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master.

Your Committee beg leave to report :—

“That the address of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master contains matter of the greatest importance to, and deeply affecting the vital interest of our Grand Lodge, and the craft in general in this Province.

“That the report of our progress so far, and of our present position is highly gratifying, and should call forth an earnest expression of our heartfelt gratitude to the great Architect of the Universe for the blessings of Heaven that have been so benignly

and freely shed on our path. While the difficulties with which we have had and may still have to contend should only have the effect which was doubtless their design, to call forth increased vigilance, to prevent our slumbering at our posts, and if possible, to stimulate us to still greater exertion in the cause of our beloved order.

• To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, your Grand Lodge is indebted for his devotion and zeal in visiting the Subordinate Lodges, and every where maintaining the dignity of his position. The most cordial concurrence must be felt by your Grand Lodge in the sentiments expressed in the address, of the sense of obligation towards the members composing the various Committees, in whose hands, the business of the Grand Lodge was placed, especially to the advice and assistance of R. W. Bro. Stephens, the value of which could only be enhanced by the willing and constant manner in which it has been rendered.

• To the various Officers of the Grand Lodge, and particularly to the Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master, Bro. Bernard much of its present position of prosperity is due, for the untiring zeal and ability with which their duties have been performed.—Your committee would deem it only necessary further on this point to remark, that your present meeting of Grand Lodge, in itself displays the essential elements of prosperity and success, in the good feeling and brotherly love which have prevailed, no matter how wide the difference of opinion on the various subjects under discussion, or how earnest the arguments in their support.

• Of the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the parent of a number of your affiliating Lodges, your Committee would desire to make honorable mention. The first, of our parent Grand Lodges, to extend to us the right hand of fellowship, to express their belief in the integrity of our motives, and to entertain and appreciate our assurances that the welfare and progress, aye, even the existence itself of masonry in this Province reign paramount in our hearts, acknowledging the correctness of our proceedings even to the annulling of old and still revered authority; for this prompt and truly fraternal treatment your Grand Lodge cannot entertain nor express too deep a sense of gratitude.

• Your Committee would express their confidence that the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland, composed as they are of most

enlightened and generous brethren, will, before our next Communication, have also admitted the justice of our cause, and recognized our constitutional position.

“To the several Grand Lodges in the United States, who have acknowledged the legitimacy of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and with whom we are now in fraternal communication, the cordial feelings of your Grand Lodge should be expressed. May the Supreme Ruler of the Universe grant that ‘prospering they may prosper,’ to the diffusion of light and knowledge throughout their respective districts. To the Brethren of Kentucky, especially, your Grand Lodge is indebted for kindness to, and cordial reception of, your Grand Master, in his recent visit.

“Your Committee regret, however, that the duty entrusted to them involves matter of a less pleasing nature, and with much pain feel compelled to allude to the position adopted towards us by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, still in connection with the Grand Lodge of England. While they cannot but congratulate you on the truly masonic feeling which has characterized the management of the affairs of your Grand Lodge, and the tone of its correspondence in strictly adhering to the principles of attributing to those brethren remaining in connection with the Grand Lodge of England the same and equal credit for sincere and masonic motives, to that we claim for ourselves, and in every case avoiding the least approach to any expression of a personal nature conceiving the “good of the craft” is, or ought to be, the chief aim of every brother, it must therefore be a matter of regret that any brother of the Provincial Grand Lodge, while, personally, professing the approval of the motives by which we were actuated, admitting the necessity for the establishment of a Grand Lodge of Canada, and expressing the best wishes for success, and hesitating only as to the decisiveness with which we have acted, should have so far forgotten the principles of masonry as to asperse and malign our motives, and misrepresent our conduct and position in a circular issued to other Grand Lodges, without even having the candour to furnish us with a copy, and this too before their parent Grand Lodge and governing body had expressed any opinion on our proceedings. This conduct is the more reprehensible, as it is well known that we have the sympathy of a great

majority of the Lodges and brethren still adhering to them, who await the decision of that Grand Lodge.

“Your Committee regret that they cannot but concur in the remarks of the M.W. the Grand Master in the action of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York towards us, believing as they do, that interested influences, of which your Grand Lodge is doubtless aware, have been brought to bear to our prejudice. But they cannot pass over this part of their duty without alluding to the anomaly of a Grand Lodge, whose internal state is such as to require the remarks made by its Grand Master, in the same paragraph in which he denounces us, taking upon itself to condemn as unmasonic, the action or motives of such of its sister Grand Lodges as have recognised us.

“Your Committee, while regretting the action taken towards us by parties in office in the two bodies just alluded to, would still strongly recommend that no alteration be allowed to appear in the tone of the correspondence of this Grand Lodge towards or respecting them, and that the privilege of our Lodges be freely extended to such of the brethren as may desire to use them, believing sincerely that in neither of these bodies is there any brother (except those few to whom it is now our painful duty to refer) who would not still be willing to grasp the hand of each member of this Grand Lodge and hail him as a brother.

“Your Committee, however, would recommend, that whilst this treatment be accorded and continued to the members of those Lodges already in existence, that this Grand Lodge being now regularly formed and duly recognized, and that too, by one of its parent Grand Lodges, and being, therefore, the supreme masonic authority in this Province, that no new Lodge be considered otherwise than as clandestine in Canada, unless it derive its authority from this Grand Lodge, and that due notification of such intention be furnished to all concerned.

“Your Committee fully concur in the remarks of the Grand Master on the necessity for deciding on the system of working to be adopted throughout the Province, and as to the desirableness of including the Mark Degree in that of the Fellow Craft's, and beg to recommend to the Grand Lodge to appoint a Committee to

consider these important subjects and report to the next Communication of Grand Lodge.

“Your Committee with pleasure refer to the allusions made in the Grand Master’s Address, to those masonic publications that are rapidly becoming so important, as a means of diffusing masonic knowledge among the brethren. To the *Masonic Review* of Cincinnati your Grand Lodge is much indebted for the liberal and unprejudiced manner in which our position has been discussed in its columns. And your Committee consider the Grand Lodge and the brethren generally called on to lend their support in as great a degree as possible to the truly masonic and able journal, lately commenced in Montreal—the *Pioneer*.

“In conclusion, your Committee would express the hope that another year may find us still on our onward progress, ever advancing and exemplifying the benefits of masonry in a degree hitherto unknown in this Province.”

The consideration of this Report was deferred until the evening sitting of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge was then called from labor to refreshment to meet at 7 o’clock, p. m.

JOHN OSBORNE, *Chairman*.

The Grand Lodge resumed its sitting at 7 o’clock, p. m.

The M. W. Grand Master on the Throne.

The consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Grand Master’s address was proceeded with, when the following Resolution was offered by R. W. Br. Daniell, seconded by W. Br. Duncan, and unanimously carried :

That the Report of the Committee on the Grand Master’s Address be adopted, and the Officers of the Grand Lodge be requested to carry out the principles therein laid down.

“A Committee was then appointed, composed of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and all present and past District Deputy Grand Masters, to consider the form of working to be adopted by the Lodges of this Province, and also the question of attaching the Mark Degree to that of the Fellow Craft, and to report thereon to Grand Lodge at its next Communication.

FIRST G. A. COMMUNICATION—HAMILTON, 5856. 79

“The following Report from the Grand Secretary on the business of the Grand Lodge since the last Communication, was read and received.

The Grand Secretary's Report.

The duties of the G. Secretary for the past year have been attended with many difficulties, for the want of the proper materials to discharge them punctually and with effect, these, however, are at length being supplied, but like all new institutions it takes time to develop the necessary wants for its proper working.

The G. S. is pleased to be enabled to lay before the Grand Lodge, returns of Lodges up to the present time, shewing a list of 30 Lodges that have affiliated with the Grand Lodge since its formation, and to which warrants have been issued, with a registry of 1,179 members in good standing. There have been also 9 dispensations granted by the Grand Master, and issued for new Lodges, under this Jurisdiction, and several other districts are writing for the form of application.

The Grand Secretary would impress upon all Lodges the real necessity of the greatest care being taken in sending their returns regularly and correctly, and the indispensable requirements that the Christian name must be in full, together with the various headings properly filled up, so that the Registry may be correctly kept.

THOS. B. HARRIS, G. S.

“It was moved by R. W. Bro. Bernard, seconded by R. W. Bro. Stephens, and

RESOLVED :

That the best thanks of the Grand Lodge are due and are hereby tendered to R. W. Bro. Harris, for the zeal and assiduity displayed in conducting the business of his office from the formation of the Grand Lodge.

The following Report of the Grand Treasurer for the same period, was then read and received.

The Grand Treasurer's Report.

The Receipts of the Grand Lodge from the time of its formation to the present have been very limited and as the disbursements were altogether of a petty nature it was deemed proper, to save

as much trouble as possible to the G. Secretary, that he should keep the account. The receipts up to the present time amount to £93 5s.—and the payments to £64 14s 4d—leaving a balance of £28 10s 8d in the G. Secretary's hands.

In the commencement of every great undertaking, there have of necessity, a great many preliminary expenses to be incurred, and the Grand Lodge of Canada has proved no exception to this rule. The following Lodges, namely: Norfolk, Simcoe, Strict Observance, St. Johns, and Barton, Hamilton, and St. Johns, London, anticipated this necessary outlay, and early sent in liberal donations which tended of course to enable the G. Secretary to meet the required demands without either himself or the Treasurer being at any time in much cash advance, and the G. Treasurer thinks the thanks of the Grand Lodge should be given to the Lodges mentioned for thus early contributing to the funds of the Grand Lodge.

Whilst however the disbursements during the past few months have been so limited, the amount now due by the Grand Lodge for printing and other expenses is large, and as extensive and expensive orders have been given out, the G. Treasurer can only urge upon the the Lodges affiliating with this Grand Lodge the absolute necessity of following in the footsteps of the Lodges already named so that the finances of the Grand Lodge of Canada may always be in a flourishing state.

In addition to the orders already given, others for things necessary to the dignified and proper working of the Grand Lodge, now follow, and as every well wisher of the prosperity of the Grand Lodge should feel, it ought to rank second to none in the world, the inference must be drawn that to secure this, funds are requisite and your G. Treasurer feels it is only necessary to remind the Representatives of the various Lodges of the fact, to insure him being placed in a position at all times to meet the legitimate demands of the Grand Lodge.

It is estimated that at least £1,500 must be collected ere the Grand Lodge will be in possession of the usual G. L. Clothing, Jewels, &c.

WILLIAM BELLHOUSE, *G. T.*

Grand Lodge Room, Hamilton, 11th July, 1856.

It was moved by R. W. Br. Simpson, seconded by R. W. Br. Daniell, and

RESOLVED:

That the thanks of the Grand Lodge be offered to R. W. Br. Bellhouse, for the care and attention he has bestowed upon the discharge of his duty as Grand Treasurer.

The following Report of the Standing Committee on Correspondence was read.

To the Grand Lodge of Canada.

Your Committee appointed by the Grand Lodge at its last Communication, for conducting the Foreign Correspondence of Grand Lodge, and for other general purposes, beg to report:

That with the least possible delay, after the consecration of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and the installation of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master and Grand Officers, they prepared an address from this Grand Lodge, to the Grand Lodge of England, which having been submitted to and approved by the Grand Master, was signed by him on behalf of the Grand Lodge, the seal of the Grand Lodge was affixed, and the address was forwarded officially to the Grand Lodge of England. Copies were sent direct to all the Grand Officers of that Grand Lodge, and through an influential brother in England, W. Bro. F. J. Bigg, a copy was also forwarded to every Lodge in England.

Similar addresses were likewise prepared for, and sent in proper form to the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland, and to the various Grand Lodges in the United States.

To these addresses an official notification has already been received of most cordial recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada, by one of our Mother Grand Lodges, the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The promptitude with which that Grand Lodge responded to our appeal and the truly fraternal and generous manner in which that ready recognition was conveyed, your Committee feel, entitle that Grand body to our warm and lasting gratitude and respect—a feeling in which, they doubt not, the Grand Lodge will heartily unite.

From several Grand Lodges of the United States similar communications have been received, acknowledging the correctness of

our position and reciprocating our proffered hand of fraternal affection; with those Grand Lodges we have now commenced a masonic correspondence, which it is both hoped and believed, neither time nor circumstances can ever interrupt. Many other of the American Grand Lodges which have held no communication since the receipt of our address, have forwarded copies of their Annual Reports, and in several instances accompanied by assurances of fraternal recognition at the approaching Communications of their Grand Lodges.

No reply has been received to our address from the Grand Lodge of England, although ample time has elapsed since their Quarterly Communication in June. Your Committee deeply regret to feel that this is but a continuation of the neglect which the Brethren in this Province have ever experienced at the hands of the Grand Lodge of England.

By the Grand Lodge of New York and a few other Grand Lodges of the United States, the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada has been considered somewhat precipitate, and its recognition has consequently been for a time deferred; but, although the present decision of those Grand Lodges has been unfavorable to the Grand Lodge of Canada, whatever may be the impression entertained by any members of this Grand Lodge with regard to the motives that may have influenced their action, your Committee believe that the course taken by those Grand Lodges has been the result of conscientious convictions that they were acting correctly; at the same time your Committee feel assured that such conviction arose from an absence of full information with regard to the facts of our case, and your Committee anticipate with confidence that ere long those Grand Lodges will fully understand the justness of our cause and the correctness of our action, and that they will then cheerfully unite with their sister Grand Lodges in acknowledging the legitimacy of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

The Grand Secretary has put into the hands of your Committee the Annual Reports of several Grand Lodges in the United States, which have afforded your Committee very great pleasure and a vast amount of masonic information, and, without alluding especially to any individual Report, your Committee had intended to have referred at some length to a few subjects mentioned in those

Reports, to which they felt it to be of the highest importance that the attention of the Brethren should be particularly called; but since the preparation of their Report, the revision and confirmation of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge has so satisfactorily provided for the whole of the matter capable of being controlled by laws, that it would be needless now to occupy the time of the Grand Lodge by further reference thereto.

Your Committee will conclude their remarks with a reference to matter that most seriously and injuriously affects the true principles and benevolent objects of the Order, and deserves the strongest condemnation at our hands, viz., the unworthy and unjustifiable uses made of Free Masonry for selfish and mercenary purposes by travelling mendicants and trading Masons.

1st. The impositions practised on the Brethren by itinerant mendicants who infest this Continent, and by plausible representations of distress, extort from the unwary members of the Craft funds that should and would otherwise have been bestowed on needy and deserving brethren. The great majority, if not the whole of these persons—Masons only in name—are dissipated, worthless vagabonds, who prefer a life of idleness and beggary to one of honest industry. In thus commenting upon the frequent claims made upon the charity of Brethren by imposters, or unworthy objects, your Committee would by no means desire to curtail the proper exercise of that virtue which Masons so ardently admire and so universally practice, but they would strongly recommend, as a safeguard against imposition, that a Committee of Benevolence should be appointed by the Lodge or Lodges of each town, composed of members whose engagements would best enable them to afford the time, and whose Masonic knowledge would protect the funds of the Craft from being abstracted by any undeserving object or Masonic impostor.

2nd. The improper use that is made of Masonic symbols for the purpose of pecuniary gain, particularly in our business relations. These Masonic emblems are exhibited on sign boards and business cards, and worn on the person in the form of jewelry, with a view of conveying to the world the impression that the owner is a member of the Craft, and proud to acknowledge it, whilst in most cases your Committee fear the true object is to promote the business

in which they are engaged, which is a most unwarrantable and unmasonic perversion of our principles to mercenary and unworthy motives.

These subjects have been so ably treated in the Report of one of our sister Grand Lodges that the Committee think it well to annex its remarks, as follows :

"The Craft have been sorely imposed upon by itinerant mendicants. Numbers of them have not been associated with a Lodge for years; losing sight of the Institution in their prosperity, they contributed nothing to the relief of others, but now that pinching want opens their eyes, they are loudest in praises of the Ancient Order they so dearly love, and are most ready to remind us of our duties to a brother in distress; some of the most accomplished among them, together with Masonic pedlars, you will discover with Masonic emblems curiously wrought in their breast-pins, finger rings or watch seals; these intruders should be avoided.

"It is a matter of regret that we perceive a disposition in some of our highly esteemed brethren to imitate these impostors by wearing, conspicuously upon their apparel, a Masonic device.—Masonry does not expect her votaries to expose her to the gaze of the world; in her modesty she shrinks from a boast of her existence, preferring to see herself advertised through the medium of untold benevolence and acts of hidden charity; her excellencies flourish most when cherished in the warm bosom of chastity that vaunteth not itself, rather than in that soil which bringeth forth the flower without the fruit.

"Connected with this custom is one equally, if not more offensive and unmasonic, by which our sacred temple is converted into a house of merchandize. Many of our brethren, forgetful of their avowal, made on entering its portals, that they are uninfluenced by mercenary motives, violate this pledge by placing upon their sign boards, vehicles and cards, masonic symbols and emblems which should possibly pertain as a means of advertisement to those brethren alone who are manufacturers of masonic clothing and jewels. This custom may have obtained among the Craft from a mistaken conception of the principles of our institution, and I would seriously recommend the passage of a resolution which leaves the Lodges without a discretion, in compelling its members to remove these emblems from public gaze, and advising the members of our order to avoid all business transactions with any house in which they may be displayed."

W. C. STEPHENS, *Chairman.*

FIRST G. A. COMMUNICATION—HAMILTON, 5856. 85

It was moved by V. W. Br. Abbott, seconded by R. W. Br. Magill, and unanimously

RESOLVED :

That the Report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence be received and adopted.

It was moved by R. W. Br. Osborne, seconded by W. Br. Baine, and unanimously

RESOLVED :

That the best thanks of the Grand Lodge are due, and are hereby tendered to W. Br. F. J. Bigg, of London, England, for the valuable assistance he has rendered this Grand Lodge, by bringing our address before the Grand Lodge and private Lodges in England, and for warmly advocating our cause in that Grand Lodge, and with the Craft generally.

R. W. Br. Bernard then moved, seconded by R. W. Br. Simpson,

That the Grand Master be requested to nominate a brother as representative of this Grand Lodge, at the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Ireland,

Which having been unanimously adopted, the M. W. the Grand Master was pleased to appoint R. W. Br. M. Furnell, Provincial G. M., of North Munster, Ireland, to be such representative.

R. W. Br. Bernard moved, seconded by R. W. Br. Osborne,

That the Grand Master be requested to nominate a brother as representative at the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Vermont.

When the M. W. the Grand Master was pleased to appoint R. W. Br. J. B. Bowdish, as such representative.

The Grand Secretary was directed officially to communicate the foregoing resolutions.

It was then moved by R. W. Br. Simpson, seconded by R. W. Br. Daniell, which was unanimously carried.

That the Grand Lodge appreciating the kind and valuable counsel and services at all times, of R. W. Bro. Stephens, do present him with a masonic honorary jewel or other suitable mark of their esteem.

The Grand Master appointed R. W. Br. Simpson, Daniell, Harris, Osborne, and Br. Duggan a Committee to carry out the wishes of the Grand Lodge.

R. W. Br. Osborne then moved, seconded by R. W. Br. Bellhouse, and it was unanimously adopted,

That the best thanks of the Grand Lodge be tendered to the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, for his devotion and zeal in behalf of the Grand Lodge.

On motion of R. W. Br. Magill seconded by R. W. Br. Harris, it was unanimously resolved,

That the warmest thanks of the Grand Lodge be expressed to the R. W. Deputy Grand Master Br. Bernard, for his great and successful exertions in furtherance of the good of the craft.

The Grand Master appointed the following Committees for conducting the business of the Grand Lodge during the ensuing Masonic year.

COMMITTEES, 5856-5857.

Correspondence—

R. W. Br. Dr. Lundy,	R. W. Br. R. Bull,
R. W. Br. W. Bellhouse.	

Constitutions and Regulations—

R. W. Br. R. Bull,	R. W. Br. T. B. Harris,
Br. Dr. Duggan.	

Warrants—

R. W. Br. T. B. Harris,	Br. F. J. Rastrick,
R. W. Br. Dr. Lundy,	R. W. Br. R. Bull.

Grievances—

R. W. Br. C. Magill,	R. W. Br. R. Bull,
W. Br. J. R. Holden,	W. Br. J. W. Baine.

Appeals—

W. Br. J. R. Holden,	R. W. Br. C. Magill,
W. Br. J. W. Baine,	R. W. Br. R. Bull.

Finance—

R. W. Br. W. Bellhouse,	R. W. Br. R. Bull,
W. Br. J. Harris,	Br. Dr. Duggan,
R. W. Br. T. B. Harris,	

Accounts of Representatives—

R. W. Br. J. H. Isaacson,	W. Br. H. J. Martin,
W. Br. S. Ross,	R. W. Br. T. B. Harris.

Charity—

W. Br. J. Harris,	R. W. Br. R. Bull,
R. W. Br. W. Bellhouse,	V. W. Br. H. Crouse,
V. W. Br. S. Ross,	V. W. Br. J. Moffat,
W. Br. H. J. Martin,	

Audit—

W. Br. H. B. Bull,	W. Br. J. F. McCuaig,
R. W. Br. J. H. Isaacson.	

The Grand Lodge was closed in ample form, with solemn Prayer.

J. OSBORNE, G. S.

GRAND LODGE OF CANADA.

At the second Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, held at the Masonic Hall, in the City of Montreal, commencing on Wednesday, the 8th day of July, A. L. 5857, A. D. 1857.

PRESENT.

GRAND OFFICERS.

The Most Worshipful Br. Wm. Mercer Wilson, Grand Master,
on the Throne.

R. W. Br. A. Bernard, Deputy Grand Master.

" " " W. C. Stephens, D. D. G. M., Hamilton District.

" " " G. L. Allen, D. D. G. M., Toronto District.

" " " W. B. Simpson, D. D. G. M., Central District.

" " " P. D. Brown, D. D. G. M., Montreal District.

" " " Rev. J. Scott, D. D. G. M., Eastern Townships.

" " " Kivas Tully, Grand Senior Warden, *pro tem.*

" " " Charles Magill, Grand Junior Warden.

" " " Rev. Dr. Landy, P. G. Chaplain, G. C. *pro tem.*

" " " Wm. Bellhouse, Grand Treasurer.

" " " Thos. B. Harris, Grand Registrar.

" " " John Osborne, Grand Secretary.

V. " " Capt. Thompson Wilson, G. Senior Deacon, *pro tem.*

" " " Dr. Henry Crouse, G. Junior Deacon, "

" " " J. C. Spence, Grand Director of Ceremonies.

" " " J. W. Haldimand, Grand Sword Bearer.

" " " R. J. Fowler, Assistant Grand Organist.

" " " Samuel Ross, Grand Pursuivant.

" " " Dr. Fowler, } Grand Stewards.

" " " H. J. Martin, }

" Wm. Hannah, Grand Tyler, *pro tem.*

PAST MASTERS.

R. W. Br. A. Bernard,	V. W. Br. Kivas Tully,
" " " W. C. Stephens,	R. W. Br. Charles Magill,
" " " W. B. Simpson,	" " " Rev. Dr. Lundy,
" " " G. L. Allen,	" " " Wm Bellhouse,
" " " P. D. Brown,	" " " Thos. B. Harris,
" " " Rev. G. Scott,	" " " John Osborne,
V. " " Samuel Ross,	W. Br. Capt. T. Wilson,
" " " David Barker,	" " H. B. Bull,
W. Br. F. Parsons,	" " George Duncan,
" " Wm. Bungey,	" " J. Taylor,
" " C. R. Wilkes,	" " Wm. G. Chambers.
R. " " Richard Bull,	" " Hiram Fulford,
" " David Brown,	

The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form with solemn prayer.

The M. W. Grand Master appointed the following Brethren a Committee on Credentials viz. W. Br. David Brown, and V. W. Br. Fowler and R. W. Br. Thos. B. Harris.

The Committee on Credentials Reported the following Representatives of Regular Chartered Lodges present, also the officers and representatives of the undermentioned Lodges under dispensation, whom they recommend to be admitted and take part in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge.

No. 3.—BARTON LODGE, HAMILTON.

W. Br. C. Magill, G. J. W., W. M., and Rep.

" H. B. Bull, P. M.

No. 4.—UNION LODGE, GRIMSBY,

W. Br. Rev. F. J. Lundy, P. G. C., W. M. and Rep.

No. 5.—NORFOLK LODGE, SIMCOE.

W. Br. Dr. H. Crouse, G. S. D., W. M. and Rep.

No. 6.—SUSSEX LODGE BROCKVILLE.

W. Br. Thos. Camm, W. M. and Rep.

" W. B. Simpson, D. D. G. M., P. M.

" Saml. Ross, G. P., P. M.

No. 7.—PREVOST LODGE, DUNHAM.

W. Br. David Brown, W. M. and Rep.

" Rev. J. Scott, D. D. G. M., P. M.

SECOND G. A. COMMUNICATION—MONTREAL, 5857. 89

- No. 8.—GOLDEN RULE LODGE, STANSTEAD.
W. Br. H. J. Martin, W. M. and Rep.
- No. 10.—PRINCE EDWARD LODGE, PICTON.
W. Br. David Barker, G. S., P. M. and Rep.
- No. 13.—ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, MONTREAL.
W. Br. A. Bernard, D. G. M., W. M. and Rep.
- No. 15.—ZETLAND LODGE, MONTREAL.
W. Br. Jno. Martin, S. W.
“ Abraham Hoffman, J. W.
“ Robert J. Fowler, Ass't G. O.
- No. 16.—KING SOLOMON'S LODGE, TORONTO.
W. Br. Kivas Tully, P. M.
- No. 17.—STRICT OBSERVANCE LODGE, HAMILTON.
W. Br. Richard Bull, P. G. S. W., W. M. and Rep.
“ Wm. Bellhouse, G. T., P. M.
“ Jno. Osborne, G. S., P. M.
- No. 19.—THISTLE LODGE, AMHERSTEBURGH.
W. Br. Wm. Bungey, W. M. and Rep.
- No. 20.—ST. JOHN'S LODGE, HAMILTON.
W. Br. Thos. B. Harris, G. R., P. M. and Rep.
- No. 22.—BRANT LODGE, BRANTFORD
W. Br. C. R. Wilkes, P. M. and Rep.
- No. 23.—GREAT WESTERN LODGE, WINDSOR.
W. Br. Geo. Duncan, W. M. and Rep.
- No. 24.—WELLINGTON LODGE, DUNNVILLE.
W. Br. Thos. B. Harris, (Proxy.)
- No. 27.—HARMONY LODGE, BINBROOK.
W. Br. J. Taylor, W. M. and Rep.
- No. 28.—WELLINGTON LODGE, STRATFORD.
W. Br. Dr. H. Crouse, (Proxy.)
- No. 30.—ACACIA LODGE, HAMILTON.
W. Br. W. C. Stephens, D. D. G. M., W. M.
“ Thos. Duggan, P. G. S. of W., S. W.
“ Thos. B. Harris, G. R., J. W.
- No. 31.—ST. ANDREW'S LODGE, CALEDONIA.
W. Br. Thos. B. Harris, (Proxy.)
- No. 32.—KILWINNING LODGE, LONDON.
W. Br. Wm. Gore Chambers, P. M. and Rep.
“ Capt. T. Wilson, P. M.
- No. 33.—REHOBOTH LODGE, TORONTO.
Br. W. H. Pardy, S. W. and Rep.

No. 34.—JACQUES CARTIER'S LODGE, MONTREAL.

W. Br. J. W. Haldimand, G. S. B., W. M. and Rep.

No. 35.—ST. FRANCIS LODGE, MELBOURNE.

W. Br. W. H Fowler, G. S., W. M. and Rep.

No. 36.—ST. JOHN'S LODGE, INGERSOLL.

W. Br. C. Magill, (Proxy.)

No. 39.—ALMA LODGE, GALT.

W. Br. Norman Booth, W. M. and Rep.

“ Hiram Fulford, P. M.

LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION.

ST. JAMES' LODGE, ST. MARY'S.

ST. JAMES' LODGE, MAITLAND.

Br. Jno. Morey, W. M. and Rep.

RISING SUN LODGE, FARMERSVILLE.

Br. Jno. Kincaid, W. M. and Rep.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, DELAWARE.

W. Br. R. Bull, (Proxy.)

WILSON LODGE, TORONTO.

W. Br. Kivas Tully, W. M. and Rep.

BEAVER LODGE, STRATHROY.

W. Br. Jas. Moffatt, (Proxy.)

ALBION LODGE, NEWBURY,

W. Br. Jas. Moffatt, (Proxy.)

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, PARIS.

W. Br. H. Crouse, (Proxy.)

CLINTON LODGE, CLINTON.

KING HIRAM LODGE, TILSONBURGH.

On motion of W. Br. H. B. Bull, seconded by R. W. Br. Wm. Bellhouse, the Report of the Committee on Credentials was unanimously adopted.

The Rev. Eli Bullou, R. W. Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of the State of Vermont was announced. The Grand Master appointed a Committee of examination.

The Right Rev. Brother was introduced, and the Committee presented him to the M. W. Grand Master, who greeted him kindly, invited our worthy Br. to take a seat on the dais, at the left of the M. W. G. M. with the usual grand honors.

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The minutes of the last regular Communication, held at the City of Hamilton, on the 8th day of July, 1856, were read, up to that portion commencing with the Constitution, which was, on motion of R. W. Br. Thos. B. Harris, seconded by W. Br. H. B. Bull, omitted; the same having been printed and a copy furnished to each Lodge. The remaining portion of the minutes were finished.

On motion of R. W. Br. Bellhouse, seconded by R. W. Br. Harris, the minutes read were confirmed.

The minutes of an Emergency Meeting of the Grand Lodge, held at Brantford, on the 14th day of October, 5856, were read, and on motion confirmed.

The Grand Secretary informed the Grand Lodge that the minutes of an Emergency Meeting, held at the Niagara Falls, on the occasion of the funeral of Br. Zimmerman, had not been engrossed, but that they would be ready for the consideration of the Grand Lodge at its next regular Communication.

The Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment, to meet at 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Grand Lodge resumed its sitting at 3 o'clock, P. M.

The M. W. Grand Master on the Throne.

The Audit Committee presented and read the following

REPORT.

The Audit Committee for the Grand Lodge of Canada beg leave to report that they have audited the Grand Secretary's and Grand Treasurer's accounts for the past year, and find the same in a very satisfactory condition.

The total receipts amount to £354 11s. 2d., the disbursements, £173 8s. 7d., leaving a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer of £181 2s. 7d., and of the Grand Secretary, £6 5s. 1d., with £10 paid to him since the Grand Treasurer's account was balanced, making the actual amount in hand £197 7s. 8d.

There are a number of accounts audited by your Committee which have not been paid, and therefore have not been brought into this account.

In consequence of a very large number of Lodges not having made their semi-annual returns, their indebtedness could not be made out, so that the actual revenue of the Grand Lodge cannot at present be correctly ascertained.

Your Committee would recommend that Masters of Lodges be specially instructed to see that all returns are promptly made, so that your Committee may be enabled to make a full Report at the next Communication of the Grand Lodge.

H. B. BULL,
Chairman.

GRAND LODGE OFFICES, {
July 4, 1857. }

It was, on motion of R. W. Br. A. Bernard, seconded by R. W. Br. Simpson, and

RESOLVED :

That the Report be received and adopted.

The Committee on Grievance presented and read the following :

The Standing Committee have had referred to them certain charges against W. Br. Thos. T. Dyas, St. James Lodge, by members of the said Lodge, which have been partly acknowledged and partly denied by him, to which your Committee have made the following reply, and would suggest that it be referred back to the Committee on Grievance, when the law applicable to the question has been decided by the Grand Lodge, and which subject will be brought forward by the Standing Committee on Constitutions to whom the matter was referred.

(Copy of Letter.)

W. SIR AND BR.,—

In regard to the charges preferred by St. James' Lodge, St. Mary's, against you as W. M., I beg to advise you that a question is involved of such vital importance that it will be brought up by the Standing Committee on Constitutions at the next Grand Lodge Meeting, when the D. D. G. M. shall receive such instructions as will enable him to investigate the whole matter and adjudicate thereon.

(Signed,)

JOHN OSBORNE, G. S.

SECOND G. A. COMMUNICATION—MONTREAL, 5857. 93

Your Committee have also had before them the following Resolution passed by the Union Lodge, No. 4, Grimsby :

Moved by Br. Geo. F. Thomas, seconded by Br. Senior Warden, and unanimously adopted :

That Br. Ira S. Bushe, S. D. of this Lodge, having absconded from the Province and forged the names of several parties in the vicinity ; Be it therefore " Resolved," That the said Ira S. Bushe be excluded from this Lodge.

(Signed,)

D. C. MACMILLAN, *Secretary.*

Your Committee beg leave to submit this Resolution for the action of the Grand Lodge.

Your Committee have received charges from the St. John's Lodge, No. 14, against Br. D. W. Kermott, and also beg the action of the Grand Lodge.

Your Committee have had under consideration charges from Thistle Lodge, No. 19, against Br. James Forbes, John Duncan, John Hutton, and A. K. Dewson, for unmasonic conduct, which they submit for the action of the Grand Lodge.

(Signed,)

C. MAGILL,

Chairman.

On motion of R. W. Br. Dr. Lundy, seconded by W. Br. H. B. Bull, the Report of the Grievance Committee just now read was received.

It was moved by W. Br. H. B. Bull, seconded by R. W. Br. Harris :

That a Special Committee be appointed for the purpose of investigating the charges submitted to this Grand Lodge against Brs. Ira S. Bushe and J. M. Farewell, by Union Lodge No. 4, and also Br. Kermott by St. John's Lodge, No. 14, and to report to-morrow.

Which was adopted.

The M. W. Grand Master appointed R. W. Brs. Stephens and Magill, and W. Br. H. B. Bull the Committee.

The Finance Committee presented and read the following

REPORT.

Your Committee have carefully looked over the various items of receipt and expenditure as shown by the books and accounts of the R. W. Grand Treasurer and Secretary, and find the funds of

the Grand Lodge in a very satisfactory position. The amount of money actually received having been sufficiently large to meet all the expenditure required by the Grand Lodge, and have now, as shown by the Grand Treasurer's Report, a large balance to the credit of the Grand Lodge. In view of this, and the fact that from various subordinate Lodges the returns required by our Constitution have not been received; your Committee believe a large acquisition to the funds of the Grand Lodge will shortly be received, and think, therefore, they are only discharging their duty by recommending that the various Grand Lodge Officers entitled to it, be paid the amount for travelling expenses, &c., as provided for by the Book of Constitutions.

In coming to this conclusion your Committee are fully aware that large expenses have yet to be incurred ere the Grand Lodge will be as bountifully supplied with the necessary regalia, &c., as some of its elder sisters; yet, as the elements of prosperity are so fully developed in our midst, your Committee feel that the recommendation they have made is not at all premature.

(Signed,)

WM. BELLHOUSE,

Chairman.

On motion of R. W. Br. Simpson, seconded by W. Br. Wilkes, the Report of the Finance Committee was received.

It was moved by W. Br. H. B. Bull, seconded by R. W. Br. Magill,

That so much of the Report of the Committee on Grievance as relates to the charges against the W. M. of St. James Lodge be adopted, and that the charges preferred by Thistle Lodge No. 19, against several Brethren be referred back to the D. D. G. M. for that District.

Adopted.

R. W. Br. Simpson gave notice that he would, on to-morrow, move that section 2, p. 20, small edition, under the head of Grand Master, be expunged.

V. W. Br. Crouse gave notice that he would, on to-morrow, move that the amendments to the Constitution, as printed in a circular by Norfolk Lodge, No. 5, be adopted.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, PROPOSED BY NORFOLK LODGE.

Clause 1, p. 12.—Add to “and in that capacity recognizes nothing but pure Ancient Free Masonry, consisting of three symbolic degrees of Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason.”

Clause 2.—Expunge. Provided for in *Clause 1, p. 20.*

Clause 11, p. 15.—Expunge.

Clause 12, p. 15.—Add “nor wearing any Jewel not appertaining to Symbolic Masonry.”

Clause 15, p. 16.—After “permission of the G. M.” add “and consent of the G. L.”

Clause 16, p. 16.—Amalgamate 4 and 5 and make it “on constitution and warrants.” Amalgamate 6 and 7 and make “on appeals and grievances.”

After *Clause 16*, add “all Committees shall report in writing, unless otherwise directed by the G. Lodge.”

Describe time to proceed with Election of the Grand Officers.

Clause 23, p. 18.—Amend.

Clause 24, p. 18.—The law should read thus—“The Grand Lodge shall decide in the last resort between the Brethren and the Lodges, and shall have *exclusive* right to try and punish its own Officers, and the Masters in office of Subordinate Lodges.”

Clause 25, p. 18.—Expunge.

Clause 2, p. 19.—Amend so as to make consistent with *Clause 6, p. 13.*

Clause 6, p. 19.—Amend.

Clause 7, p. 19.—“Solemnly *Excluded*,” *infra p. 33*, a note reads, that *Exclusion* is only applicable when a brother is removed from a Private Lodge.”

Clause 1, p. 20.—Repetition of *Clause 2, p. 12*, expunge one or the other.

Clause 2, p. 20.—Add “Except by unanimous vote of the G. L. taken by Ballot on the question of re-nomination. If the Ballot be clear in the affirmative, he may again be re-elected.”

Clause 3, p. 20.—Belongs to D. D. G. M.'s and should come under that head.

Clause 7, p. 28.—Amend. The Grand Tyler is to attend the meetings of the Grand Lodge, guard the outer door, and see that none except the Grand Officers and members enter, without the special permission of the Grand Lodge.

Clause 2, p. 29.—"At the next meeting after his election." This should specify some time, as "St. John's Day."

Clause 7, p. 30.—Strike out "seven days clear notice."

Clause 10, p. 31.—No Lodge "*shall*." They *can*, but it would be illegal.

Clause 26, p. 33.—For may read "shall."

Clause 27, p. 33.—Make this law explicit; say, no jewel not appertaining to Symbolic Masonry.

Clause 28, p. 33.—Right, but not in accordance with Sec. 8, p. 21, Sec. 4, p. 22, and Sec. 5, p. 24.

Clause 30, p. 34.—For "to attend" read "vote in."

Clause 31, p. 34.—For "from attending" read "voting in."

Clause 33, p. 34.—Unless with law 35 infra in force.

Clause 4, p. 36.—Expunge.

Clause 1, bottom of p. 37.—Law should read "no one is regularly made a Mason."

Clause 2, p. 38.—*Esoteric.* Expunge.

Clause 2, p. 40.—This law does not state that the candidate must petition.

Clause 3, p. 34.—No law lays down the course of procedure for an applicant. "Must sign *previous* to his initiation," is very vague. The law should state—1st. That he should apply by petition. 2nd. That he should have two vouchers. 3rd. That the petition being received, must be referred to a Committee. 4th. That it must lie over one month. 5th. The Committee having reported, the Lodge must proceed to ballot. 6th. The ballot being clear he can be initiated. 7th. After report of Committee, the petition cannot be withdrawn.

Clause 4, p. 41.—For "*can*," read "*shall*."

Clause 5, p. 42.—For "on" read "previously to."

Page 42.—"Lodges of Instruction." 1st. Define what a Lodge of instruction is. 2nd. State its powers.

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Page 43—Visitors—clause 1,—" Unless he be personally known, or recommended, or well vouched for." The law should be :
" No Master of a Subordinate Lodge, under this jurisdiction, shall permit any one present in his Lodge to vouch for visiting Brethren, unless he has sat in a Lodge with the Brother so applying ; and no Brother present being able to vouch, the visiting Brother shall undergo a strict and rigid examination before a competent Committee."

Clause 5, p. 44.—For " retirement or expulsion," read " demission."

Clause 1, p. 45.—This is made to differ slightly from law 20 p. 32, Either the one or the other should be altered.

Appeal—5th line.—" Deciding on every case which concerns the interest of the Craft," add " and is connected with symbolic Masonry."

Page 51, line 3.—It should be 8, one to be out-side to act as Tyler.

Page 51, line 5.—" Some regular Lodge." ~ *The nearest Lodge is the law,*" and add, " And which recommendation shall vouch that the petitioners are regular Master Masons, in good standing as such, and that they are men of fair moral character."

Funeral Service.—The Lodge must be opened in the Third Degree.

W. Br. Wilkes gave notice that he would, on to-morrow, move, That the amendments to the Constitution, as printed in a circular by Brant Lodge No. 22, be adopted.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, PROPOSED BY BRANT LODGE NO. 22.

At page 31, Sec. 11—To be amended by adding thereto, " nor until he has been balloted for and approved, nor can a rejected brother be balloted for again in the same or any other Lodge within six months of the time of such rejection."

At page 39 there is a foot note in these words, " a dispensation cannot in any case be granted," and yet by Sec. 3, page 44, certain work may be done " by Dispensation from the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master," and at page 46 provision is made for the Fees payable for such Dispensation—thus one

portion of the Constitution contradicts the other. Your Committee therefore recommend that the foot note at page 39 should be expunged.

At page 59 are the words, "The Clergyman concludes the funeral service of the Church to which the deceased belonged, *after which* the Worshipful Master proceeds," &c., and recommend this to be remedied, by expunging the words "Clergyman" and "Clergy" wherever they occur, and allowing simply the word "Chaplain" to appear.

At page 13, Sec. 3.—To define clearly the meaning of an "open vote of the Grand Lodge," whether by show of hands, or otherwise.

At page 15, Sec. 12.—Strike out the words "not recognized by the Grand Lodge," and insert in lieu thereof the words "that does not appertain to Symbolic Masonry."

At page 15, Sec. 13.—Strike out the words "to attend any meeting of," and insert the words "to vote in." The penalty of non-payment of Dues for one year.

At page 18, Sec. 23.—Add the words "such summons being addressed, and either delivered personally or sent by post to the last known place of residence of such Brother, being deemed in all cases *prima facie* evidence of such service."

At page 19, Sec. 6.—In the 4th line expunge the word "shall," and insert "may."

At same page, Sec. 7.—Strike out the word "solemnly."

At page 20, Sec. 4.—Add at the end the words, "and his station warrants."

At page 21, Sec. 8.—Strike out the words "as a peremptory summons," at page 23, Sec. 4, page 24, Sec. 5, and at page 35, Sec. 37. Amend to correspond with page 21, Sec. 8.

At page 34, Sec. 31.—In the eighth line strike out the words "attending the," and insert "voting in."

At page 46.—The Registration Fee of 2s. 6d. should be more clearly defined.

It is very desirable to have added to the Book of Constitution, in a similar manner to that adopted by the Grand Lodges of

England and Ireland, certain "Prayers used in Lodges," and also certain Rules and Regulations on "The manner of Constituting a Lodge, including the ceremony of Consecration, &c.," and wherein is set forth the "Form of Installation."

On motion of R. W. Br. C. Magill, seconded by W. Br. Wilkes, and unanimously

RESOLVED :

That the thanks of this Grand Lodge be conveyed to the Grand Trunk Railway Company for the liberality evinced by them towards the members of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

The R. W. District Deputy Grand Master for the Central District presented his Report, which was read.

REPORT.

} CENTRAL DISTRICT,
{ Brockville, 25th June, 1857.

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR, OFFICERS AND BRETHREN,—

In conformity with the instructions received from your Most Worshipful Body in July last, I proceeded to Kingston for the purpose of explaining to Br. Barker why his application for a Warrant of Constitution had not been entertained, and informed him that if he would have the kindness to draw up a petition in the manner required by our Constitution, the Most Worshipful the Grand Master would be happy to grant him a Dispensation for a new Lodge. Br. K. Barker stated, in reply, that he feared some of the parties who signed the original petition might, perhaps, decline signing another, but that he would, nevertheless, see what could be done, and so far as I could judge, appeared satisfied with my explanation. Since then, however, I have heard nothing either from him or Brother Drummond, who promised that if Br. Barker did not succeed in getting up a Lodge, he would himself do so in the fall.

In January last, I had the pleasure of granting a Dispensation for a new Lodge, styled, "St. James Lodge," to be held at the Village of Maitland, and for which your Most Worshipful Body will be applied to for a Warrant of Constitution; the field of this Lodge is, I fear, rather circumscribed, inasmuch as the Village is

small and not particularly thriving, nevertheless, if the Worshipful Master and Officers are judicious and careful, I have no doubt it will prosper.

On the 24th of June, I also had the pleasure of granting a Dispensation to Br. Francis McCarty and others to erect a new Lodge, styled the "Rising Sun," at the Village of Farmersville. Here the field for Masonry is extensive, and I have no doubt this Lodge will be one of the most prosperous in the District; the Worshipful Master and Officers are old, tried, experienced Masons, and have their hearts in the cause, and if success does not attend their efforts it will not be from any want of zeal. Having been informed by some of the Brethren composing this Lodge, that there existed a strong feeling, among some of the uninitiated in the vicinity of Farmersville, against the order, I delivered a Lecture there, upon its origin, History and Tenets, to a large and influential assembly, and, I flatter myself, placed our venerable Institution in its true light before them.

During the past year "Sussex Lodge No 6, I am sorry to say has not advanced as favorably as in former years; this however is mainly to be attributed to the fact that on the erection of the Grand Lodge of Canada, a number of the old and influential Members withdrew themselves from it; should an amalgamation however take place between the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West and your Worshiptful Body, which I sincerely hope will be the case, these old Members will at once return to the Fold, and "Sussex Lodge will again become what it was formerly, one of the first in the Province.

It is a source of much regret to me that during the past year, I have been unable to visit Prince Edward's Lodge of Picton, should I however have the honor to be re-elected to the office I now hold, I should make a point of doing so in August.

The work practised within this District, with the exception perhaps of Prince Edward's Lodge, of which I cannot of course speak, is that formerly known as the ancient York or Athol, but now better known as the United States Work, and although I believe it to be the oldest, I nevertheless do not think it to be compared in all its parts to the English Work; I beg leave therefore

most respectfully to suggest the propriety of steps being taken, at the next Communication of your Most Worshipful Body, to compel a uniform system throughout the Province, as, in my opinion, nothing can be more hurtful and injurious to the true interests of the Craft, than to have various Lodges working under different systems.

Although the progress of the Order within my District, during the past year, may not have been as great as in some of the Districts East and West of me, I nevertheless consider it, on the whole, to have advanced very favorably, particularly when I take into consideration that many of the old Masons in the District, adherents of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, have been strenuous opponents to the advancement of the interests of your Most Worshipful Body. As time, however, advances, much of the rancorous feeling which heretofore existed will, I have no doubt, be softened down; even now I observe a striking change for the better in the feelings of those who have been hitherto our strongest opponents, and I have every reason to believe that before the summer is over an impetus will be given to the Craft, in this District, that will make up for all past deficiencies.

All of which I beg leave most respectfully to submit.

I have the honor to be,

Most Worshipful Sir, Officers and Brethren,

Your most obed't Serv't,

W. B. SIMPSON, *D.D.G.M.*

On motion of V.W. Br. H. Crouse, seconded by W. Br. T. Wilson, the report was received.

The Grand Secretary, at the request of the M.W. Grand Master, read the following List of Lodges under Dispensation :

St. James	Lodge,	St. Marys,	London District.
King Hiram	"	Tilsonburg,	Hamilton "
St. James	"	Maitland,	Central "
Albion	"	Newbury,	London "
St. John's	"	Delaware,	London "
St. John's	"	Paris,	Hamilton "
Beaver	"	Strathroy,	London "
Clinton	"	Clinton,	London "
Wilson	"	Toronto.	Toronto "
Rising Sun	"	Farmersville,	Central "

On motion of V. W. Br. Tully, seconded by R. W. Br. Magill, it was unanimously

RESOLVED :

That Warrants be issued to the following Lodges under Dispensation :

ST. JAMES,	LODGE	Maitland ;
KING HIRAM,	"	Tilsonburg ;
ALBION	"	Newbury ;
ST. JOHN'S	"	Delaware ;
ST. JOHN'S	"	Paris ;
BEAVER	"	Strathroy ;
CLINTON	"	Clinton ;
RISING SUN	"	Farmersville ;
WILSON	"	Toronto.

The Grand Lodge, in consequence of some irregularity, declined to confirm the Dispensation issued to St. James Lodge, St. Marys, until its next Communication.

The R. W. District Deputy Grand Master for the Hamilton District presented his Report, which was read.

REPORT.

The D. D. G. M. for the Hamilton District has the honor of submitting to the Grand Lodge the following Report on the state of Masonry in his District during the past Masonic year.

At the last Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge there were 16 Lodges in the District, and Dispensations have been granted for two others ; one for a new Lodge at Tilsonburg, called "King Hiram," and the other to the Brethren of the Unity Lodge, at Paris, holding a Warrant from the Grand Lodge of England, which they have now returned, and come under this jurisdiction as the "St. John's Lodge."

During the past year the D. D. G. M. has visited nearly the whole of the Lodges in his District, and he takes this opportunity of expressing his warmest acknowledgment to the Brethren for the kindness and attention he has received from them on every occasion. He would desire also to express his hearty thanks to the Brethren of Lodges beyond his District, which he has had the happiness to

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visit, for the hearty welcome and kind hospitality which they have extended to him.

The devotion to the true interests of the Craft exhibited by the Fraternity on all hands, and the laudable zeal displayed by the Officers of the various Lodges in the discharge of their respective duties, is a just cause of hearty congratulation, and affords the most gratifying assurance of the permanent prosperity of our noble Order in the Province.

Amongst the subjects which the D. D. G. M. has brought under the consideration of the Lodges, the most important was the great necessity for extreme caution in the selection of candidates for admission to our Order—a caution which, he feared, had not been sufficiently regarded, as it had appeared an impression amongst the Lodges that the number of members added to their roll during a year was the test of the prosperity of the Lodge, rather than a small number possessing the proper qualification.

The only question of importance that has arisen during the past year was with regard to the secrecy of the ballot, and in briefly alluding to that question, the object of the D. D. G. M. is to call the special attention of the Brethren to Section 4, of the Article on "Members and their duty," and to impress on them the serious importance of that law being preserved sacred and inviolable.

Since the last annual Communication, it has pleased the G. A. of the U. suddenly to summon from his Lodge here to the Grand Lodge above, our esteemed Brother Samuel Zimmerman, a member of the St. George's Lodge, St. Catherines. The D. D. G. M. had the honor of representing the M. W. the Grand Master, at his funeral which was attended by the Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Canada, of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Upper Canada, and by a vast number of the Craft from the United States; and the D. D. G. M. would suggest that an address of condolence and sympathy should be presented to the widow of their late Brother by the Grand Lodge; and his melancholy death should be a never-forgotten warning of the uncertainty of human life, and of the necessity that we should be constantly prepared for eternity.

The prosperity of the Craft in this District may be gathered from the annexed list of its Lodges :

Lodge.	Name.	Place.	Members last year.	Initiations.
2.	Niagara,	Niagara,	26	3 No return last half year.
3.	Barton,	Hamilton,	63	18
4.	Union,	Grimsby,	43	6
5.	Norfolk,	Simcoe,	38	8
9.	St. George's,	St. Catherines,	44	8
17.	Strict Observance,	Hamilton,	85	3 No return last half year.
18.	St. John's,	Cayuga,	15	No return.
20.	St. John's,	Hamilton,	52	11
22.	Brant,	Brantford,	64	4 No return last half year.
24.	Wellington,	Dunnville,	19	14
27.	Harmony,	Binbrook,	7	6
30.	Acacia,	Hamilton,	26	
31.	St. Andrew's,	Caledonia,	19	15
36.	St. John's,	Ingersoll,	22	No return.
39.	Alma,	Galt,	17	16
U. D.	King Hiram,	Tilsonburg.		
U. D.	St. John's,	Paris.		

There have been but two cases to mar the prosperity of this District, and these occurred in the Union Lodge, Grimsby ; two of whose members have so misconducted themselves that they have been suspended by the Lodge and recommended to be expelled by the Grand Lodge. This subject will be brought up for consideration by the proper Committee.

The Brethren of this District are laboring under such serious disadvantages for want of a uniformity of work, that the D.D.G.M. feels it to be his imperative duty to beg the Grand Lodge to give that question its earliest consideration. This is the more important as the present unsettled state of the work precludes the operation of Lodges of Instruction—the most valuable and effective modes of disseminating the principles and operations of Masonry.

W. C. STEPHENS, D. D. G. M.

On motion of R. W. Br. Osborne, seconded by R. W. Br. Harris, the Report just read was received.

The R. W. District D. G. Master, for the Eastern Townships presented his Report, which was read.

REPORT.

TO THE M. W. G. MASTER.

The D. G. G. M., of the Eastern Townships, Reports, that he has visited all the Lodges within his jurisdiction, within the year, except one, and that he found them all in a satisfactory state of order and working ability, and two or three doing a good deal in the way of initiating new members; but having unfortunately left his written report behind him, he cannot now supply any of the statistical details.

J. SCOTT, *D. D. G. M.*

On motion of R. W. Br. Magill, seconded by V. W. Br Crouse, the Report just now read was received.

The Committee on Foreign Correspondence then submitted the following, which was read.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

The standing Committee on Foreign Correspondence beg leave respectfully to submit their Second Annual Report.

Your Committee have received from the Grand Secretary correspondence and publications from twenty-two Grand Lodges, containing matter very voluminous, as well as various and important in character. The receipt of these documents have given your Committee great satisfaction, and a large amount of valuable information, which we trust will be of lasting benefit to the members of our Order in this Province.

The establishment of the Grand Lodge of Canada has been the subject of debate in a large number of the Grand Lodges dispersed over this Continent, as well as in Europe, and your Committee are happy to report that not only is the Grand Lodge merely recognized by a very large majority, but in many instances the warmest and most eulogistic resolutions commendatory of the course pursued by our Brethren have been passed.

Were your Committee to recapitulate the different reports made by the various Grand Lodges in regard to the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Canada, hundreds of pages would be required to

give a tithe of them but your Committee cannot help giving at length the very able and lengthy report made by the Committee on Foreign Correspondence to the Grand Lodge of Florida, and which was unanimously received by that body. After acknowledging the receipt of the address of the Grand Lodge of Canada, of Nov. 10th, 5855. The Committee report as follows.

FLORIDA.

After devoting to this address of our Canadian Brethren, all the consideration which its importance demands, and we are capable of giving to it, we are brought to the conclusion that the Free Masons of Canada are not only fully justifiable in sundering their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England, but that, in constituting an independent Grand Lodge in Canada, they have performed a duty demanded by their obligations as Masons, and the *interests of the Craft*.

The principles of Free Masonry are as universal as the benevolence of God in his creation, and as "unaffected by the revolutions of empires and the change of dynasties and rulers."

We hold these opinions, in which, we believe, we are supported by the Ancient Constitutions of Masonry, and "established usage from immemorial time"—that a Grand Lodge has the right, when it is made apparent that the interests of the Craft would be thereby promoted, to grant to the requisite number of regular Free Masons a warrant of Constitution to create a new Lodge in any State, Kingdom, Nation or Territory, where no Grand Lodge is already established; and when Lodges so created become sufficiently numerous to render it necessary to the convenience and prosperity of the Craft, they may constitute a Grand Lodge and adopt a code of laws for their own government, in accordance with the ancient constitutions of the Craft, without the consent of the Grand Lodges from which they derived their existence. *The Ahimon Rezon of South Carolina says three Lodges are sufficient.*

That a *Provincial Grand Lodge* has none of the characteristics of a Grand Lodge, and is entitled to no more consideration than a Lodge Under Dispensation, being the creature of the Grand Master without the power to elect its Master.

That the appointment of a *Provincial Grand Master* is a usurpation and innovation upon the principles of Masonry.—Because all Lodges are entitled to the privilege of electing their own Masters. Because it is arbitrary and unjust to impose upon a Lodge a Master who is not acceptable to the Craft, and because “although Free Masonry divests no man of his temporal honors, but on the contrary highly respects them ; yet, in the Lodge, pre-eminence of virtue and knowledge in the Mystic Art, are considered as the true and only fountain of all honor, rule and government.”

When the Masons were cast off and anathematized by the Pope, for their opposition to tyranny and superstition, in the early ages, after their introduction into Europe, to protect the Order from persecutions, and accusations of disloyalty, in their secret assemblies, they were forced, by the necessity of their position, to seek and encourage the patronage of royalty, by many concessions of authority and privilege, not consistent with the principles of ANCIENT FREE MASONRY, the Grand Mastership was made hereditary in families of nobility and royalty. Under this state of things the Grand Masters of England, who were of royal blood, arrogated to themselves authority to send their deputies to the Continent, “with full power and authority, *in due form*, to make Masons, and constitute and regulate Lodges, from time to time, as occasion may require ;” and thus empowered, they did constitute *Provincial Grand Lodges* and appoint *Provincial Grand Masters*, in many parts of the Continent—in the United Provinces of Holland, at Berlin, in Germany, France, and in many other governments, and thus has grown up by usurpation the system of *Provincial Grand Lodges*, and the right to appoint *Provincial Grand Masters*, peculiar to the Grand Lodge of England.

In the reign of King James the Second, of Scotland, the office of Grand Master was appointed by the Crown to William St. Clair, Earl of Orkney, etc., Baron Roslin, and was made hereditary to his heirs and successors, in the Barony of Roslin, in which it continued until the institution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in 1736 when the hereditary Grand Master, William St. Clair, resigned his hereditary right of Grand Master, and was *unanimously elected* Grand Master.

An example which should have been followed by the Grand Master of England and all of his *Provincial Grand Masters*.

Subsequently, all the Provincial Grand Lodges established by the Grand Master of England, on the Continent, asserted their independence, and there is no evidence of record, that the consent of the Grand Lodge of England was considered necessary in any case.

As late as the year 1738, when the Book of Constitutions was republished by the learned and Rev. John Theopolus Desaguliers, L. L. D., F. R. S. Deputy Grand Master, speaking of the Provincial Grand Lodges, he says : "all these foreign Lodges are under the patronage of our Grand Master of England ; but the old Lodge at York City, and the Lodges of Scotland, Ireland, France and Italy, *affecting independency, are under their own Grand Masters*.

The four Lodges which met at the Apple-Tree Tavern, in London, in 1717, and organized the Grand Lodge of England, were within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of York, and owed to it their allegiance, and yet they did not consider it necessary to obtain the consent of that Grand Body to legalize their action. If there is illegality in the action of the Masons in Canada, the same may be traced back to the very foundation of the Grand Lodge of England.

With these authorities and "usages from immemorial time," we will come down to the precedents furnished by the *Provincial Grand Lodges* in the colonies of Great Britain, in America, now the United States, which we regard as more directly in point with the proceedings of the Fraternity in Canada.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Georgia, deriving its powers from the Grand Lodge of England, constituted an independent Grand Lodge in December, 1776.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Massachusetts holding its authority under the Grand Master of Scotland, threw off its allegiance and established an independent Grand Lodge in March, 1777. There was at that time another Provincial Grand Lodge in Massachusetts, known as the St. John's Grand Lodge, chartered by the Grand Lodge of England, and organized in 1733. This was the first Provincial Grand Lodge chartered in America, and continued to exercise the functions of a Grand Lodge, by issuing charters

and establishing new Lodges until its union with the independent Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, in 1792.

The Lodges in Virginia, holding their charters under five distinct and separate authorities, viz: the Grand Masters of England, Scotland, Ireland, and the Provincial Grand Lodges of Pennsylvania and America, organized an independent Grand Lodge in October, 1778.

The Lodges in Pennsylvania, holding charters under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Boston, and the Grand Lodge of England, met in the city of Philadelphia, in September, 1786, and after mature and serious deliberation, unanimously

RESOLVED :

“That it is improper that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania should remain any longer *under the authority of any foreign Grand Lodge.*”

The Grand Lodge of New Jersey was organized in December, 1786.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of New York, holding a warrant from the Duke of Athol, Grand Master of England, dated London, September 5th, 1781, organized an independent Grand Lodge in September, 1787.

The Grand Lodge of New Hampshire was organized in July, 1789.

The Grand Lodge of Connecticut was organized in July, 1789.

The Grand Lodge of Rhode Island was organized in June, 1791.

The Grand Lodge of South Carolina was organized in February, 1787.

The Grand Lodge of Maryland was organized in May, 1794.

The Grand Lodge of North Carolina was organized in 1797.

There was no regular Masonic organization in Delaware until about the year 1806, and the Grand Lodge of Vermont was constituted at Portland, in October, 1797.

There was no regular Masonic organization in Delaware until about the year 1806, and the Grand Lodge of Vermont was constituted at Portland, in October, 1794.

Thus we see that all the colonies, including Vermont, obtained their charters directly from the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland or Ireland, or indirectly from Provincial Grand Lodges in some of the States, whose authority was derived from one or another of those sources, and that all of them organized independent Grand Lodges without the consent of the Parent Body from which they derived their authority; and the causes assigned for their independent action, were substantially the *convenience and interests of the craft*, which rendered the severance of their allegiance necessary.

Virginia says, in justification of her independent action :

“We find upon record that the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland, founded their original right of election upon *their sole authority*, by mutual consent, distinct and separate from all foreign power whatever, and we cannot discover upon enquiry *that Masonry has ever derived any benefit from the foreign appointment of a Grand Master in this country, they being as little known and as little acknowledged.*”

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania declares “*that it is improper that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania should remain any longer under the authority of any foreign Grand Lodge.*”

The Grand Lodge of New York says :

“In conformity to the example which had been set by the Grand Lodges of the several States, the Masters and Wardens of the several Lodges within the State, assembled in the city of New York, and the late *Provincial Grand Lodge* having been closed *sine die*, formed and opened an independent Grand Lodge, and elected and installed their Grand Officers.”

On the formation of the independent Grand Lodge of South Carolina, February, 1787, the following “Circular Letter was transmitted to the different Grand Lodges in Great Britain, Ireland and America :

“We, the Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons for the State of South Carolina, and the Masonic jurisdiction thereunto belonging, legally and constitutionally erected and organized, and in ample form assembled, beg leave, with all due respect, and in the true spirit of Brotherly Love, to announce to you our formation as such; to declare the purity of those motives which led to it; to assure you that, by this act, we mean not to dissolve, but to strengthen that Union by which the Ancient Brethren, throughout all nations, are connected, and to request your countenance and correspondence.

“This act, Brethren, *is not without precedent*, nor was the measure hastily or unadvisedly adopted: the truth of this assertion will appear from the facts stated in the preamble to those warrants we have granted to Lodges under our jurisdiction—a copy of which we have above prefixed, as containing a precise account of the foundation of this Grand Lodge.

“The *necessity* of the measure, and the motives which actuated the Brethren to proceed to this important business, will appear obvious to the Masonic world, from a few plain facts.

“The Ancient Lodges in this State were constituted under different authorities, and subject to different and very distant jurisdictions; consequently, the funds (the first natural object of which

is the relief of such distress as comes immediately under the observation of the Brethren,) were necessarily subject to be diffused to distant regions, and thereby divided into such inconsiderable portions, that the charity was rendered of less effect than if those funds were more compact ; add to this, that under the foregoing circumstances, and without a local head, it might become at least possible for the Lodges in this State to differ in sentiment, to deviate by degrees from the strict union of Free Masonry, and to vary from that conformity to ancient landmarks and uniformity in working, which ought ever to be held sacred among the Brethren.

“To render the divine principle of Charity more effectual, to cement harmony and Brotherly Love, to preserve union, conformity and uniformity among our Lodges, and to cultivate strict fellowship with all the Ancient Masonic Bodies within reach of our correspondence, were our motives for forming and establishing a Grand Lodge in this State, to *guide, govern and direct* our local proceedings ; and for the sincerity of those motives, we appeal to that Great Architect, who built up the human heart, and searches the inmost recesses of its fabric.”

With this long and unbroken chain of authorities and precedents before us, which go directly to support the action of the Masons of Canada, we expected that the Grand Lodges in the United States, would with open arms receive and welcome this young sister of Canada into the family of Grand Lodges of America. But on looking into the proceedings of Grand Lodges before us, we were not a little surprised to see that the Worthy Grand Master of New York, promptly refused to permit a P. G. M. of the Grand Lodge of New York to assist in the Installation of their Grand Officers ; and in his address to the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication in June last, he says :

“ We cannot for a moment countenance schisms and rebellions ; they are antagonistic to the spirit of Masonry, and if encouraged, would eventually produce its downfall and utter destruction.—*There are other means afforded by the Institution, whereby a good object may be effected, without rashly and harshly doing violence to our wholesome regulations. Every disease can find its remedy there, and every grievance its redress.*”

We were in hopes that the worthy Grand Master would have pointed out what those “ means ” are, and where that *panacea* could be found which would cure “ every disease ” and “ redress every grievance.” We are sure our Canadian Brethren would be thankful for the knowledge, for no doubt they think, and so we think, they have exhausted all the *means* at their command, in the form of prayers, petitions and remonstrance, and are not chargeable with “ rashly and harshly doing violence to our wholesome regulations.” But he goes on, and says :

"I will, however, remark, that I have been startled to learn, that one or more of the Grand Lodges have acknowledged this spurious Grand Lodge in Canada as legitimate. This we view as strangely mysterious. We can scarcely open a copy of the printed transactions of the Grand Lodges, as they come into the Grand Secretary's office, but we find expressions of sorrow, regret, pity and contempt for the Masons of New York, in consequence of the schisms and rebellions, they find here."

Ah! we sadly fear, here lies the whole difficulty in respect to the proceedings of our Canadian Brethren. The Worthy Grand Master has been so long brooding over "schisms and rebellions" at home, he has become nervously affected, and sees spectres behind every bush, and fell auguries in the flight of every bird.

We can point with pride to the course pursued by the Grand Lodge of Florida, in regard to the difficulties in New York.—Upon the presentation of the question, this Grand Lodge promptly decided, which body she would recognize and correspond with, as the legitimate Grand Lodge of New York; and whilst the whole Fraternity had our sympathy, regarding it as a family breach, which time and better councils would reconcile, we have refrained from intermeddling advice, as well as from any "expressions of sorrow, regret, pity or contempt."

But we respectfully think our New York Brethren have no cause to disquiet themselves on account of the revolutionary movements in Canada, for we really cannot perceive the slightest analogy between their positions. In New York it is a family quarrel about constitutional prerogatives and constitutional enactments—neither of the Bodies impeaching the integrity of its jurisdiction, or denying its supreme Masonic authority, but each contending for the right to administer it. New York has no foreign colonies in which she may plant *Provincial* Grand Lodges, and appoint *Provincial* Grand Masters, whose fidelity would be in danger of being corrupted by the evil example of the Canadian Masons.

But the Committee on Foreign Correspondence of New York say, "taking all the circumstances together, we hardly think there is a parallel case in Masonic history." Now, with due deference to their general information, we think "the thirteen colonies of this country" are all, without an exception, "parallel cases;" and they go on to cite the cases of Georgia and Massachusetts; but seeing that they were both directly against their argument, they say:

"It's (Georgia's) organization, was different from that in Canada, in this—that, while Samuel Elliott, its *Provincial* Grand Master, relinquished his right to preside over the Craft in that State or Province, Sir Allan N. MacNab, in the upper Canadian Province, and T. Douglass

Harrington, Esq., in the Lower Province, are in the full exercise of the powers conferred on them by the Grand Lodge of England. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts took upon itself an independent attitude on the 8th of March, 1777.—The Provincial Grand Lodge to which this succeeded, had become *defunct* by the death of its Grand Master, the lamented General Warren."

"A most lame and impotent conclusion." We respectfully ask our learned brethren of New York, where they obtained authority for this declaration, that a Provincial Grand Lodge "became *defunct*" by the death or resignation of its Provincial Grand Master. We venture the assertion that it cannot be found on record, that either of the Provincial Grand Lodges gave to the Masonic world, the *death* or *resignation* of its Provincial Grand Master, as a justifying cause for casting off its allegiance to the parent body. To have seized upon such an event, to assume "an independent attitude" would have been an aggravation of the rebellion.

In the case of Georgia, Samuel Elliott, the Provincial Grand Master, believing that the *appointment* of a *Provincial Grand Master* was an innovation upon the Principles of the Craft; and following the example of William St. Clair, hereditary Grand Master of Scotland, Baron Roslin, who resigned the hereditary right of Grand Master, resigned his *Provincial Grand Mastership*, so as not to be in the way of the Craft's electing their own Grand Master; and when Massachusetts established an independent Grand Lodge in 1777, there was at that time in the colony of Massachusetts, the St. John's Provincial Grand Lodge, holding its charter directly from the Grand Master of England, dated as far back as 1733, the oldest Provincial Grand Lodge in America, and continued in the exercise of its functions as a Grand Lodge, by issuing charters and establishing new Lodges, until its union with the independent Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, in 1792. Is there no parallel to be found in all this "Masonic history," for the Masons of Canada?

The next case the New York Committee rely upon is the history of the proceedings in Virginia; and, finding this case directly against them, they again find a *difference* without a *distinction*, and are driven to rely upon conclusions drawn from false premises.—They say:

"The only other Grand Lodge which threw off foreign control, prior to the recognition of our Sovereignty by Great Britain herself, in the treaty of Paris, September 23rd, 1783, was Virginia. This was formed on the 13th day of October, 1778, and among the reasons for its formation, as set forth by the Convention of Lodges out of which it ultimately grew, were the following:

[Which we will copy at large from the New York report, believing they go fully to support our position.]

1. "We find that the Lodges in this State hold their charters under five distinct and separate authorities, viz : the Grand Master of England, Scotland, Ireland, Pennsylvania and America—(the last at second hand ;) of course all have an equal right to appoint their *Deputies*, who can claim no authority over those not holding this principle. Therefore, any difference arising between Lodges holding differently, cannot be settled, for want of a common tribunal. For the same reason the Craft can never meet in Annual Communication, manifesting that Brotherly Love and affection, the distinguishing characteristics of Masonry from the beginning. Such divided and sub-divided authority can never be productive to the real good of the Craft.

2. "We cannot discover, upon inquiry, that Masonry has ever derived any benefit from the foreign appointment of a Grand Master in this country, they being as little known and as little acknowledged.

3. "Being at this time without a Supreme Head, and so circumstanced as to render it impossible to have recourse to the Grand Lodge beyond the sea, should any abuse creep into Lodges, or should any of the Brotherhood be desirous of forming a new Lodge, there is no settled authority to apply to. In this case we are of opinion that a Grand Lodge is a matter of necessity.

"And, lastly, we find upon record that the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland, founded their original right of election upon their sole authority, by mutual consent, distinct and separate from all foreign power whatever."

Now we think here is a precedent, and a direct parallel with the Canada case, and so, it appears, the New York Committee thought, for they say :

"The reasons first stated above, for the course which the authors proposed to pursue, are much the same as those declared by the Brethren at Hamilton, Canada West, though the others are somewhat different, and we think, more potent. We think it will be conceded that if the occurrence of any ordinary circumstances short of the implied or express consent of England could justify the organization of a sovereign Grand Lodge, it would be those which are here enumerated as having existed in the case of Virginia ; but they were not sufficient, even in the estimation of those ardent republicans who were engaged in that movement. One of those contingencies must happen which are provided for by the ancient landmarks, or by the organic laws from which the constituted Lodges severally derived their existence ; that is, the government must be changed, so that the Musonic Bodies recognize the ruling power, de facto ; or the consent of the parent body be obtained, or the Provincial Grand Lodge must cease to exist, by the death, resignation, suspension or removal of the Provincial Grand Master."

Well, we confess, that these are *new* ancient landmarks to us, and one of them very startling. The first, "*the government must be changed so that the Masonic Bodies recognize the ruling power, de facto*;" in other words, CIVIL REVOLUTION. This doctrine, Masonry abhors. Every Mason must "be a good man and true." He must "be a peaceable citizen, and cheerfully to conform to the laws of the country in which he resides." He must "not be concerned in plots and conspiracies against the government of the country in which he lives; but patiently to submit to the decision of the law, and constituted authorities." He must "pay a proper respect to the civil magistrates, work diligently, live creditably, and act honestly by all men."

These are ANCIENT CHARGES, about which, we presume among Masons there can be but one opinion. What then would have been the position of Georgia, Massachusetts and Virginia, if the Fraternity in those States, taking advantage of the *political revolution* "*the ruling power, de facto*," gave that "*contingency*" as a justification for a *Masonic revolution*? Would they not as Masonic Bodies, have been implicated in countenancing, if not *concerned in plots and conspiracies against the government of the country in which they lived*? And what would have been the effect upon the harmony of the Craft in those jurisdictions? Whigs would have been found expelling Tories from the Lodges, where they had the power, and Tories would have expelled the Whigs from Lodges where their power predominated. But for the credit and prosperity of the Craft in the United States, the Masons in those days were wiser and better men; and if there had been more of such Masons, both Whigs and Tories in the United States, during the war of the Revolution, the horrors of civil war would have been greatly ameliorated. And we fearlessly venture the assertion, that not a particle of evidence can be produced from the record of the day, that the change of the *political* government, was ever regarded by the Provincial Grand Lodges, as a justifying cause for affecting Masonic independence, either during the "*ruling power, de facto*," or after the "treaty of Paris, September, 23d, 1783," *the power, de jure*. We readily admit that all communication being cut off between the Provincial Grand Lodges in the United States, and the Parent Bodies in Great Britain, by the Revolutionary war, a *necessity* arose which justified independent action. And it is remarkable that only three Provincial Grand Lodges asserted independency; all the others adhered faithfully to their Masonic allegiance, and not for many years after the acknowledgment of the independence of the United States by Great Britain, did they affect any change in their relations to their Parent Bodies, with whom a mutual recognition of authority and submission subsisted. And on this point we would respectfully invite the attention of our Brethren

of New York, to a portion of their own history. The Duke of Atholl, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of England, granted a charter, dated London, September 5th, A. D. 1781, to the Masons of New York, to constitute a Provincial Grand Lodge, five years after "the ruling power *de facto*" under which they worked subordinate to the Grand Lodge of England, until 1787, four years after "the treaty of Paris, 1783" when, by a convention of Lodges, the Provincial Grand Lodge was closed *sine die*, and an Independent Grand Lodge was constituted; and the reason assigned, was, "the example which had been set by the Grand Lodges of several of the States"—*the interest of the Craft*.

The Provincial Grand Lodges of Pennsylvania and New Jersey in 1786, closed *sine die*, and organized independent Grand Lodges, and resolved, "That it is improper that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania should remain any longer under the authority of any foreign Grand Lodge." Again, *the promotion of the interests of the Craft was the moving object*.

The Grand Lodges of New Hampshire and Connecticut affected independency in 1789—thirteen years after "the ruling power, *de facto*." Rhode Island, in 1791; Maryland and Vermont, in 1794; and North Carolina in 1797, fourteen years after the treaty of 1783; and South Carolina in 1787; and in no instance can we find any other causes in justification assigned, for the severance of the allegiance due to the Parent Bodies than, substantially, the *necessity* which the *interests* and the *prosperity* of the Craft imposed. And, we ask again, if the *change* in the *political government*, wrought necessarily a *change* in the *Masonic government*, so as to sever the allegiance due from the Provincial Grand Lodges to their Parent Head, why was it, that the enlightened Masons of South Carolina considered it necessary to address a "Circular to the different Grand Lodges in Great Britain, Ireland, and America," announcing *their organization in ample form* as an independent Grand Lodge? In which they say, "This act, Brethren, is not without *precedent*, nor was the measure *hastily* or *unadvisedly* adopted." And the learned Dr. Daleho, who compiled the Book of Constitutions of South Carolina, based chiefly, we believe, upon the authority of Anderson, says:

"Things continued in this situation until the successful termination of the American Revolution added a great and powerful empire to the independent nations of the earth. Free Masonry, unaffected by the revolutions of empires, the change of dynasties and rulers, pursues, 'the even tenor of her way', true to her principles, and inflexibly bent on promoting 'peace and good will among men.' Neither allied to the Church, nor influenced by the State, she earnestly endeavors to promote harmony, benevolence

and brotherly love, wherever her influence extends. But, notwithstanding Free Masonry has nothing to do with particular forms of Government, yet it comports with the dignity of the nation and the honor of the Craft, to have her Lodges independent of *any foreign jurisdiction*. As the American Revolution gave sovereignty and independence to the nation, so it produced a *reasonable cause for the independence of the Masonic Body*."

But take another specimen of the *sound* and *logical* argument of the intelligent Committee of New York. They say "one of these contingencies must happen, which are provided for by the ANCIENT LANDMARKS, etc.; that is, the government *must be changed*, so that the Masonic body recognise the ruling power, *de facto*." And, in regard to Georgia, Massachusetts and Virginia, they contend that such was the fact, viz: the existence of "the ruling power, *de facto*." Then why seek other causes for justification? But the Committee declare "that was not sufficient, even in the estimation of those ardent republicans who were engaged in that movement." "Two of these contingencies had happened in the case of Virginia: one of which they declared before organizing their Grand Lodge, and made it *one of the three fundamental grounds* upon which only they felt authorized to proceed to the organization of the Grand Lodge, viz: 'It is the opinion of this Convention, that the power and authority of CORNELIUS HARNET, Esq., as Deputy Grand Master of *America*, does not now exist.'" Now, just look back at the *first* resolution of the Convention, which reads thus: "*First*. We find that the Lodges in this State hold their charters under *five distinct and separate authorities*, viz: the Grand Master of England, Scotland, Ireland, Pennsylvania and *America*, (the last at second hand;) *of course all have an equal right to appoint their Deputies, who can claim no authority over those not holding this principle*." By this sort of argument, it would seem that the *non-existence* of the power and authority of Cornelius Harnet, Esq., as Deputy Grand Master of America, *nullifies* the power and authority of the Deputy Grand Masters of England, Scotland, Ireland and Pennsylvania. Now let us state the proposition thus: the Provincial Grand Lodge must cease to exist: the power and authority of Cornelius Harnet, Esq., as Deputy Grand Master of America, does not now exist—*ergo*, the power and authority of the Deputy Grand Masters of England, Scotland, Ireland and Pennsylvania, do not now exist.

It is by this kind of logic, and arguments predicated upon false, or assumed premises that the Committee hope to sustain their position. Take the "*three fundamental grounds upon which only they felt authorized to proceed to the organization of the Grand Lodge*," all of which is assumed—for the very reverse is declared in the resolutions of the Convention. 1. "*The government must*

be changed so that the Masonic Bodies recognize the ruling power, de facto." We have clearly shown, that not one of "the Masonic Bodies recognized the ruling power, *de facto*, nor did they the governing power *de jure*, as operating any change in their Masonic relations.

2. "*Or the consent of the Parent Body be obtained.*" We have proven by authority and usage, from the formation of the Grand Lodge of England, in 1717, to the organization of the Grand Lodge of Kansas Territory, that in no instance has the consent of the "Parent Body" been obtained.

The Ahiman Rezon, of South Carolina, compiled by Dr. Dalcho, and prepared and re-published with notes by Dr. Mackey, says: "any three regular Lodges can form and constitute a Grand Lodge, in a State, Kingdom or Nation, where no Grand Lodge is already established; and have the right of forming a code of laws for their government, according to the Ancient Constitutions of the Craft." And such is the usage in the United States, without an exception; not one word about the "consent of the Parent Body."

3. *Or the Provincial Grand Lodge must cease to exist, by the death, resignation, suspension or removal of the Provincial Grand Master.*" Now, that this is a mere assumption, is self evident. All charters for a Lodge, are granted to the Master and Wardens, and their successors, and if the Master is absent for either of the above causes, the Senior Warden steps into his place and authority, until a new election or appointment. But here is a strange idea. The Grand Master of England has the right of appointment of all his Provincial Grand Masters, and of the removal of them at his will. But, by this reasoning, if in the exercise of his legitimate right, he *removes* a Provincial Grand Master, his power and authority "*ceases to exist*," and the *Provincial Grand Lodge*, acquires by that lawful act, the right to assert its own independence. But, we respectfully think, there is another difficulty from which our esteemed Brethren of New York, will hardly be able to extricate themselves in this argument. When a Lodge "*ceases to exist*," or becomes *defunct*, it is the duty of the officers and members of the Lodge to see that the charter, and the furniture and property of the Lodge, are returned, and delivered to the Grand Master from whom the charter emanated. Consequently, there would remain no Masonic authority to organize a legally constituted Grand Lodge.

Thus the Committee will see that the "three fundamental grounds" upon which they have rested their argument, have crumbled away before them, and left a chasm which they will never be able to leap over. They very gravely ask:

“ Is it not the fact that every officer and member of the *newly formed body* has been obligated to support the Constitutions of the Grand Lodge they have respectively renounced. This will not be denied, and yet one of the fundamental laws require them to ‘submit to the Constitutions,’ and pay respect to the regularly constituted Masonic authorities under which they were made.”

Well, we grant it, and ask our intelligent Brethren of New York, if it is not the fact that all officers and members of all regularly constituted Masonic bodies under the canopy of Heaven, in all time, have been, and are bound, by the same obligations? and if there ever was, or ever can be a *newly* organized Grand Lodge, whose officers and members were not obligated to ‘submit to the Constitutions,’ and pay respect to the regularly constituted Masonic authorities under which they were made? Is it not the fact with all the *newly* organised Grand Lodges in the United States? Have all the Free Masons in the United States, violated their solemn obligations of allegiance to the Grand Lodges under whose authority they were made, by meeting in Convention and organizing an independent Grand Lodge in their own jurisdiction? We hope not. Our intelligent Brethren of New York must surely perceive that the transferring of allegiance from one legally constituted Grand Body to another legally constituted Grand Body, is no violation of obligations, and has the full sanction of usage in the United States, and we believe in every other portion of the world, from immemorial time. But we may be told that the Grand Lodge of Canada is not a legally constituted Grand Lodge. Well, that is the question, and we think we have proved that it is a legally constituted Grand Lodge, by *authorities, usage* and *necessity*.

One more *quotation*, and we have done with the report of the Corresponding Committee of New York. They say :

“ There is another aspect of the case that the Grand Lodge of New York cannot overlook. It has heretofore specifically recognized the *regularity and legitimacy of the Provincial Grand Lodges of Canada*, by the appointment of representatives to each, and those Representatives are now in the full exercise of their *diplomatic functions*.”

Well! that is “potent,” and unanswerable; and we do not know what better advice we can give our Canadian Brethren, than to retrace their steps, and submit patiently. For we can see no hope of a redress of grievances, so long as the Grand Lodge of New York retains a Representative at the Court of Sir Allan N. MacNab.

A Committee of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, in a special report, after giving a history of the proceedings of the Masons of Canada in relation to their independent action, and a statement of the cause of complaint, which led to it, as set forth in their address, say :

"It seems to your Committee, after examining these several reasons, to the best of our ability, that they make out simple cases of *inconvenience*, and nothing more; want of *harmony in working or action*, is an inconvenience; a *multiplicity of jurisdictions* is an inconvenience. It is an inconvenience certainly—at least we should so consider it, to be governed by a body *four thousand miles away*; or that they should appoint our principal officers. But as these things are just as they always were among our Canadian Brethren"—

Why make a fuss about it? The reasons against them will only be a little stronger ten years hence. Well, this is certainly very cool and considerate argument; but we fear it would require more philosophy on our part than we could command. But, as different men take different views of the same subject, we will here copy a paragraph from a speech delivered by the Earl of Carnarvon, in the Grand Lodge of England, in September, 1856, on the condition of Masonic affairs in Canada. He said:

"The Canadian Lodges had a conference at Hamilton, at which they stated their grievances and complaints, in a petition which was forwarded to England; it bewailed the want of *harmony* in the Canadian Lodges, the irregularity of communications between England and Canada; and last, but not least, the unsatisfactory position of the Provincial Grand Master. This, in fact, was the principal complaint. They complained of the position of the Provincial Grand Master as part and parcel of the whole system of *nomineism*. Which they described as distasteful to them. They complained that he was holding an *irresponsible* position, and that they had neither a *concurrent voice in the management of the affairs*, nor any check upon his proceedings. No notice, whatever, was taken of this communication. They met again, and embodied their grievances in a set of resolutions. What became of those resolutions? I ask. It is sufficient to say that there was *no reply*. Now, Brethren, can you wonder that as time flew in a manner little reckoned of by us in England, it was counted by days and weeks in Canada? Years elapsed—three long years—and yet the Canadian communication was unattended to, and even unacknowledged; and now, who can wonder that hope deferred produced its natural results. Upon the petition to be permitted to elect their Provincial Grand Master, the Grand Master *graciously* proposes, by way of relief, 'that henceforth, *every third year*, the Provincial Grand Master should send in a report, and if that report, under the auspices of the Provincial Grand Master be unsatisfactory, that it should then be competent for the Grand Master to depose the Provincial Grand Master.' But this proposal gives no new power to the Provincial Grand Master. He can at present send his reports, not every third year, but, whenever he likes. It is also, at present, in the power of the Grand Master to *depose* the Provincial

Grand Master whenever he may think proper to do so. What improvement, therefore, I ask, would be effected by the Grand Master's proposition? What further independence or self-government would it confer upon the Colonies? I answer, none. The only reception which such a proposition could meet with in Canada, would be *scorn and irritation*. When independent Brethren made motions of a remedial character, they were stifled under the pretence that an ancient landmark of the Order was attempted to be obliterated; a Grand Lodge was attempted to be coerced by an overbearing temper and domineer. *Let us never suppose that extent of dominion is any real test of power. Extent of dominion is no test of real prosperity, unless accompanied by a living spirit, breathing from the inmost centre to the utmost extremity.*"

We respectfully think, that our Brethren of New York and Massachusetts have taken a wrong view of this whole question, and, with deference we say it, we fear a very dangerous one, as it regards the perpetuity and purity, of the principles of the Order. The Massachusetts Committee, say :

"And the leading principle is this: That each Grand Lodge in the United States rules and governs without interference from any other, all Lodges within the civil jurisdiction of the State in which she is situated—holding the territories as common ground, wherein each Grand Lodge is free to charter Lodges at pleasure; until each Territory by being regularly admitted into the Union as a State, acquires the right to form a Grand Lodge for itself. Your Committee are aware that this has sometimes been done before admission as a State; but, although it may be alleged in excuse that Territories are States in process of formation, we still think the practice illegal, and not to be justified in any case; the only safe rule in our opinion being that above laid down."

We would say, that each Grand Lodge rules and governs without interference from any other, all Lodges within its *Masonic jurisdiction*. Usage has adopted the *civil jurisdiction*, because defined and convenient, and because there can be but one *Supreme Masonic authority* in a *Masonic Jurisdiction*, no other Supreme Masonic authority can interfere with it. The Grand Lodge of England is supreme in its *defined jurisdiction*. But it cannot charter Lodges in the *defined jurisdictions* of Scotland and Ireland. But they have the same right to charter Lodges in any of the Territories of the United States, that any of the Grand Lodges in the United States have, "where no Grand Lodge is already established." And the Grand Lodges in the United States, have the same right to charter Lodges in any of the Canadian Provinces, that the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland have. Because there is no Supreme Masonic authority in Canada. The Provincial Grand

Lodges of Canada are subordinate Lodges, owing allegiance to Foreign Supreme Grand Bodies, who charter Lodges at will, within their own jurisdictions, whilst they cannot elect their Grand Officers, or grant charters. When there are a sufficient number of regular chartered Lodges in any of the Territories or Provinces, where no Grand Lodge is already established, and it appears the *interests and prosperity of the Craft would be promoted*, they may form and constitute a Grand Lodge, without the consent of the Grand authorities from which they derived their existence, and "have the right of forming a code of laws for their government, according to the Ancient Constitutions of the Craft." But permit us to look a little further into the consequences of this "leading principle," put forth by our Massachusetts Brethren. They say : "holding the territories as common ground, wherein each Grand Lodge is free to charter Lodges at pleasure, until each territory, by being regularly admitted into the Union as a State, *acquires the right to form a Grand Lodge for itself*." Then, the right to form a sovereign Masonic authority, for the *interests of the Craft* depends upon the will of the civil government, under which it is located, and not upon the Ancient Constitutions and usages of the Order. By this doctrine the Masons of Canada, having no prospect of any redress of their grievances but by civil revolution, are driven of necessity to a violation of their obligations, by being "concerned in plots and conspiracies against the government of the country in which they live."

The Committee perceiving the difficulties into which this doctrine was leading them, say : "Your Committee are aware that this has *sometimes* been done before admission as a State, but, although it may be alleged in excuse that Territories are *States* in process of formation, we still think the practice *illegal* and not to be justified in any case." We believe our highly respected Brethren of Massachusetts will find it a very hard matter to point out a solitary instance of a territorial government, since the adoption of the Federal Constitution, where a Grand Lodge was not organized before its admission as a State. The Grand Lodge of Florida was organized in 1830, and the Territory was not admitted as a State until 1845. If this be sound doctrine, it is *Congress* which *legalizes* the institution of an independent Grand Lodge, and not the Ancient Constitutions and usages of Masonry.

Will our Brethren of New York and Massachusetts consider the consequences of their doctrine, and arguments, which subject the institutions of our order to the *changes and revolutions* of the *civil* governments under which they may chance to be located. Suppose the navy and army of Great Britain could succeed in a conquest of the territories of the United States on the Pacific, and in reducing them to the condition of Provinces ; the Grand Lodges which

have been established there by such doctrine, would be divested of their independency, and be reduced to the condition of *Provincial Grand Lodges*, subject to the authority and control of the Grand Master of England.

It is the boast of English statesmen, that the sun never sets upon the British Empire. Wherever the navy and army of Great Britain can carry the sword of conquest, the authority of the Grand Master of England follows, supreme. How can such doctrines, we respectfully ask, square with the sublime principles of Free Masonry, which are the same in all climes, and under all forms of government, "neither allied to the Church nor influenced by the State"—universal, unchangeable and eternal !

But the Corresponding Committee of the Grand Lodge of Virginia adopts the opinions of the M. W. Grand Master of New York, and say :

" We highly appreciate and warmly commend his comments on the Masonic virtue of obedience to law and order, as the foundation on which the well-being of every Grand Lodge depends, and will not venture to analyze the extremely delicate details of the issue involved, as presented by the relations which the governors and the governed bear to each other in this particular case. Nor will we venture to disturb the good relation we hold to the M. W. G. Lodge of England, by obtruding our opinions on their deliberations in advance of any request by her to do so."

Well, we are very sorry, that the enlightened and experienced Committee of the Grand Lodge of the Old Dominion, the mother of Washington did not take a little more time to consider of this important matter, for themselves, and to look into their own history upon this subject.

We will now close this Report with a few extracts from some of as enlightened and experienced Masonic Bodies, as any in the United States, which we find in the proceedings before us.

The Corresponding Committee of the State of Maine, after presenting the case of the Canadian Masons, say :

" Before introducing resolutions on this communication, we will frankly state, that before the Grand Lodge of Canada was organized, and while measures were in train for that end, an opinion adverse to their independent organization was submitted to them by M. W. G. Master Joseph D. Evans, of the Grand Lodge of New York, which was approved by a Committee of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, who, in their report on the subject, in 1855, say :

" We would strenuously urge upon the recusant Lodges of Canada West to fall back upon their former position of subordinates, and commence to attain their object by a respectful, firm, but Masonic

memorial to their mother Grand Lodge, as being the only course likely to place them fair before the family of Grand Lodges, into which they propose and hope to be adopted.

“With all due deference to the opinions advanced by the M. W. G. Master of New York, and fully endorsed by the distinguished Committee of Virginia, your Committee are impressed with the conviction that the reasons set forth in the preamble, resolution and proceedings of our Brethren in Canada, fully justify their action in the premises, and entitle them to a cordial recognition by all the Grand Lodges of this country and the world. We do not see wherein they had not exhausted, fully and completely, the means they possessed of accomplishing the end sought by their petitions and correspondence with the Grand Lodge of England.”

The Report of the Special Committee of the Grand Lodge of Vermont, we beg to quote entire, as an able and conclusive document upon this subject :

Br. Bowdish, from the Committee to whom was referred the communication from the Grand Lodge of Canada, made their report as follows, which was unanimously accepted and adopted :

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of Vermont, now in session—

Your Committee to whom was referred the communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada, have had the same under consideration, and after a thorough examination of the facts therein set forth, Report.

That before entering upon a strict examination of the matter they were disposed to look upon the action of the Delegates assembled at the city of Hamilton, on the 10th day of October, A. L. 5855, with suspicion, as being revolutionary in its tendency, and as having been prompted by a spirit of insubordination to the venerable Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland, instead of a spirit of devotion to the welfare of the Fraternity.

And although your Committee would by no means be understood to condemn revolutions in the *political* world, brought about by oppression, and prosecuted for the purpose of establishing more wholesome forms of government. Yet they were disposed to look with scrutiny upon any action (bearing the semblance to revolution) emanating from a body of men fraternized together for the purpose of disseminating those divine principles, and promoting the exercise of those *great* cardinal virtues : *Brotherly Love Charity and Truth*.

Yet, your Committee, upon a full investigation of the premises, find all the statements set forth in the communication from the Grand Lodge of Canada to be true. That the Masons of Canada, in this movement, were actuated by no spirit of insubordination, *revenge, hatred or malice* towards the Venerable Grand Lodges of England, Ireland or Scotland ; not that they loved and venerated

those Grand Lodges *less*, but that they loved the cause *more*, and considered the *existence*, interests and welfare of Masonry in Canada as demanding precedence over every other consideration ; that the Lodges in Canada would gladly, throughout all time, subject themselves to the jurisdiction of either of said Grand Lodges, were it possible to overcome the insurmountable barriers of distance, and means of communication, which the Great Architect of the Universe has placed in the way—barriers which must remain, and ever render it utterly impossible for the Lodges in Canada to force their way within hailing distance of the practical jurisdiction of either.

Placed, in point of fact, in this real position of wayfarers and orphans, without a parental roof, or a fraternal home ; having no governing power nearer than three thousand miles, and belonging to Lodges emanating from three different sources, a circumstance of itself naturally engendering jealousy, envy and uncharitableness towards each other, productive of confusion, disunion and want of harmony—a state of things which must inevitably bring the Craft into disrepute.

What could the Brethren of these forty-one Lodges of Canada do ? The following extract from the December number of the *Free Masons' Magazine*, published in London, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, being the highest Masonic publication in Europe, answers this question so far as the Grand Lodge of England is concerned, by acknowledging the *justice* of what they *have* done :

“SEVERANCE OF THE CANADIAN LODGES FROM THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

“ So important do we consider the step which has been taken, and we consider *justly*, by our Brethren in Canada, that we beg to draw especial attention to the official communication made to us, which our readers will find published in our correspondence. It appears, amongst other causes inducing them to throw off allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England, the Canadian Brethren forcibly allude to the fact of important communications ‘ to England having frequently remained without reply for months, and in some cases for years ; and notwithstanding that complaints of such neglect have been repeatedly represented to the Grand Lodge of England, they have as yet received no attention or redress—a neglect highly discourteous towards the Masons of Canada, and seriously injurious to the general interests of the Craft. Experience has shown them to be *unable* to secure from the Grand Lodge of England the attention and respect due to their position as a Provincial Grand Lodge.’

“ This is a very grave charge, and one we, to our cost, have reason to *verify*, for not Canada alone, but other foreign settlements of Masonry, have applied to us repeatedly,” &c.

Your Committee further find that *forty-one* Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons, all in good standing, a portion of which were working under authority derived from each of the Grand Lodges aforesaid, united in this movement *ex necessitate*, and that the warrants under which they acted, have all been surrendered and returned to the sources from which they emanated.

It was urged before your Committee that the assent of the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland, should have been obtained before the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada. But your Committee are not aware of the existence of any Masonic law or usage giving to the Grand Lodges aforesaid, the power to *establish* or *prevent* the formation of a Grand Lodge in Canada.

Entertaining the opinion which your Committee do, and which the Masonic world must, of the high reputation of the three venerable Grand Lodges aforesaid, your Committee are unwilling to believe that they, or either of them, will for a moment harbor or tolerate a sectional or selfish view of this matter, but on the other hand, feeling, as they must, an interest in the prosperity of the cause, the world over, will with one accord hail our Brethren of Canada, and with a *paternal* and *fraternal* blessing, bid them a hearty God-speed in their new organization.

On referring to Masonic history and usage, your Committee find that in the year 1717, the *four* Lodges working in the city of London, met at Appletree Tavern, in Charles street, Covent Garden, London; and in the absence of all other authority constituted themselves into a Grand Lodge, thus affording and establishing an eminent precedent for independent action upon this subject whenever the necessity of the case, and the existence or interest of the Craft demand it. Also in 1812, the Lodges in Louisiana met and formed a Grand Lodge, and, as a justification for the step which they had taken, stated “ the example set by the other States in this Union, and their topographical situation, which rendered their communications with the Mother Lodge extremely difficult and hazardous.

In 1818 the Lodges in Mississippi having derived their charters from two different sources, to wit: from the Grand Lodges of Kentucky and Tennessee, met and organized themselves into a Grand Lodge for the State of Mississippi, and in their manifesto, sent forth to the Masonic world, set forth as the reason for the step which they had taken “ that the Grand Lodges of Kentucky and Tennessee, from their remote situation, possessed inherently the creating power, and that their Lodges in Mississippi were suffered to pass on without instruction or correction: and that the

Mother Lodges being thus necessarily unacquainted with their wants and wishes, on all matters appertaining to their local concerns, difficulties and inconveniences, affecting the prosperity of the Institution, had arisen, which called loudly for a remedy : and the remedy applied in Louisiana, Mississippi, and in every other instance, (which has come to the knowledge of your Committee) has been the formation of a Grand Lodge in the several jurisdictions where such evils existed, and their authority to form the same has never as yet been questioned, or, at least, successfully controverted.

Is it for us, then, upon this side of the Atlantic, when the high Masonic authority of England, above referred to, acknowledged the justice of their claims, and endorses their proceedings? Is it for us, the Grand Lodge of Vermont, with motives as pure as the air of our own green hills, who have, and can have no feeling in the matter, except such as should be exercised by every true Mason, to-wit : (the prosperity of the Craft!) Is it for us, situated in the immediate vicinity of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and knowing her to be composed of good Masons and true : knowing, as we do, the difficulties under which our Canadian Brethren have labored and struggled to maintain their existence as Masons ; knowing, as we do, that the formation of the Grand Lodge of England, and of the Grand Lodges of most of the States of the Union, have formed and established Masonic precedents for this very action? Does it become us, with all these precedents and acts before us, to withhold the right hand of fellowship from, and turn the cold shoulder to, these forty-one Lodges in Canada—for following these eminent and praiseworthy Masonic examples? Your Committee, *unanimously and emphatically*, answer no! And believing that there was, on the 10th day of October, A. L. 5855, at the city of Hamilton, in Canada West, a Grand Lodge of Canada, constitutionally and Masonically established, according to the ancient usages and precedents of the Order, unanimously recommended the passage of the following resolution :

“*Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge of Vermont cordially extends to the Grand Lodge of Canada the right hand of fellowship, and recognises it as an independent Grand Lodge, entitled to all the courtesies and fraternal regards due to the most favored Grand Lodge.”

“The M. W. Grand Master of Iowa, in his address, alluding to the action of the Brethren in Canada, says : “I would recommend that you acknowledge the legitimacy of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and that your decision be communicated to that Grand Lodge.” The Committee on Foreign Correspondence, say :

“Since the last Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge, an important change in Canadian Affairs has been announced. The relations heretofore existing between the Provincial Grand Lodge

and the Grand Lodge of England have been suspended, and all the facts connected with this important measure, have been set forth by our Canadian Brethren in a communication which they have issued to the Fraternity throughout the world.

“The high character which the Masons of Canada have sustained, and their strict adherence to the established principles and usages of the Order, as well as the cordial fraternal intercourse between them and the Craft in the United States, has attracted an unusual attention to this movement, and excited investigation on the part of our ablest Masons, as to the causes which justified it.

“This inquiry has been conducted calmly and with impartiality. No great question has ever been presented to the Fraternity in America which has received a more dispassionate consideration. A profound desire to prevent any innovations upon the Constitutions of Masonry, mingled with a feeling of kindness and sympathy for our Canadian Brethren, has characterized all that your Committee has read upon this subject, and the action, based upon the conclusion which most of the Grand Lodges of this country have adopted, has been taken with a sincere respect and deference to the Grand Lodge of England—the only Masonic body with which opinions and actions upon this subject would be likely to conflict.

“The judicious course pursued by our Brethren of Canada, upon an occasion of so much importance, has had a most happy influence upon the Fraternity elsewhere. Their new position is not the result of violent rupture or angry revolution. Political sympathies or antipathies have had no agency in bringing it to pass. Their course has been taken after mature reflection; and with a full belief that the best interests of Masonry in Canada, would be subserved by it. The series of meetings and proceedings which finally eventuated in the formation of their independent Grand Lodge, have been particularly distinguished by a respect for the allegiance which they had yielded to the Grand Lodge of England, as well as by that higher and more commanding allegiance which every Mason owes to the spirit, letter, and welfare of the Institution, as laid down in our Ancient Charges and Constitutions.”

And a Special Committee say :

“The Committee to whom was referred the Communication from a Grand Lodge of Masons in Canada, announcing the organization of an independent Grand Lodge in that Province, Report,

“That having examined this Communication with much care, and weighed the reasons which it sets forth as influencing the action of the Craft in Canada; as well as giving due respect and attention to the opinions and actions of several American and foreign jurisdictions upon this subject, they recommend, to this Grand Lodge a cordial recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada recently

formed, of which Wm. M. Wilson is Grand Master and Thos. Bird Harris, Grand Secretary ; and that they coincide in the opinion expressed by the M. W. Grand Master of Iowa, as to its legitimacy, and recommend that a full fraternal intercourse and friendship be extended to the said Grand Lodge of Canada.

"They also offer the following :

"*Resolved*, That a copy of this action of the Grand Lodge of Iowa be forwarded by the Grand Secretary to the Grand Lodge of Canada.

The Corresponding Committee of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, after a full statement of the causes of grievances complained of by the Masons of Canada, say :

"From another source we learn that the charters of the forty-one Lodges were severally surrendered to the sources from which they emanated. We have nothing from the Grand Lodges of England on the subject nor are we able to say what are the boundaries of the jurisdiction of that Grand Lodge according to its own regulations. We perceive, from the *Free Mason's Magazine*, published in London, that what is said about the long and unbroken silence of the Grand Lodge of England towards these complaints from Canada, is fully confirmed. Taking all that is stated in the Canada document as strictly correct, (as we fully believe is the case,) we think the organization of the Grand Lodge of Canada right and proper, and that this Grand Lodge ought at once to tender to her the right hand of fellowship."

We will now close with one other extract from the report of a distinguished Mason, whose opinions we consider good authority. Bro. A. G. Mackey, R. W. Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, in his report to the Grand Lodge says :

"One of the most interesting events that has occurred in the Masonic history of the past year, is the organization of an independent Grand Lodge in Canada. Since the first establishment of Masonry in that Province, it has been governed by a Provincial Grand Lodge, holding its charter from the United Grand Lodge of England, while much trouble and annoyance has been felt from the existence of other Lodges under warrants granted by the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The Provincial Grand Lodge holding this subordinate position, cramped in its energies by its dependence on the mother country, and drained of its revenues by the large returns that it was compelled to pay to its superior, having in vain appealed for a redress of its grievances and for a modification in its character, at length with the true spirit of America, determined to right itself, and accordingly at a Convention of the Lodges holden on the 10th of October last, an independent Grand Lodge was formed. It is not to be doubted, that the Grand Lodges of the United States will, with one accord, extend the right hand of fellowship and recognition to this their younger sister."

All of which your Committee respectfully submit, with the following Resolutions :

Resolved. That the Grand Lodge of Florida, cordially extend to their Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Canada, the right hand of fellowship, with fraternal greeting, and a hearty welcome into the family of American Grand Lodges.

Resolved. That the Grand Secretary send the proceedings of this Grand Lodge to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

Signed, THOS. BROWN, *Chairman.*

Whereupon, the Report was received, and the Resolutions unanimously adopted.

On motion,

Resolved. That the thanks of this Grand Lodge be presented to Bro. Brown, for his able report, just read ;

Which was unanimously adopted.

The Committee of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia not only gives the address of the Grand Lodge of Canada, but also inserts a circular issued by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, which was intended, if possible, to counteract the good effect of the former ; but after going into the question for the second time and condensing the different points at issue into sixteen pages of closely printed matter, the Committee submitted and recommended the re-confirmation of their former action, recognizing the Grand Lodge of Canada. Your Committee will let the report speak for itself, and would ask a careful perusal of it by those who have thought that the erection of the Grand Lodge of Canada was not done under truly Masonic principles and in accordance with the ancient landmarks.

The Committee report as follows :

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

M. W. P. G. M. French, as Chairman of the Committee, having in charge the condition of the Craft in the Province of Canada, read the following report :

To the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia :

The undersigned, a Committee appointed to consider the matter of recognition by this Grand Lodge of "the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada," make the following report :

That at the semi-annual meeting of this Grand Lodge in May

last, the Most Worshipful Grand Master laid before this Grand body a circular from the Grand Lodge of Canada, stating very fully the reason for the formation of that Grand Lodge, and closing in the following words :

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

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

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

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

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

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

GRAND MASTER’S OFFICE.

GRAND LODGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

June 13th, A. L. 5856.

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

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

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

I see it stated in the "Mirror and Keystone" that in Canada West there were fifty one English and fourteen Irish Lodges—that fourteen *English* and fourteen *Irish* Lodges were represented in the Convention which ultimately resulted in the formation of a New Grand Lodge in Canada, and that since the latter event, four of said English Lodges and one Irish have returned to their allegiance. That in "Montreal and Wm. Henry" there were twelve English, and one Irish and one Scotch Lodge; ten English and one Irish represented in Convention, and two English since abandoned the Convention party and returned to their allegiance.—That in "Quebec and Three Rivers" there were three English Lodges, one Irish and one Scotch: the Irish and Scotch Lodges being the only ones represented in the Convention, and that they have returned to their allegiance.

It would thus appear, that, instead of this being a movement of *unanimity* among the Masons of Canada, one in which the private Lodges with scarcely an exception, participated, and to which the three Provincial Grand Lodges offered no obstacle, it was the movement of the brethren of but forty-one Lodges out of eighty-four, and that of the forty-one, nine have since refused to acknowledge the new Grand Lodge; thus showing that if the persons professing to *represent* them acted in that respect by authority, they went too far when they attempted to bind them to this forcible separation. I was deceived, and I think the brethren, acting upon the matter, were equally mistaken, in the language and terms of the manifesto issued by the new Grand Lodge, and asking a recognition of their authority. I believed that the forty-one Lodges referred to by them comprised *all the Lodges* within the jurisdictions of the the three Provincial Grand Lodges, or so near all as to make it equivalent to an unanimous desire on their part for the change, and that, although perfect unanimity would of

itself have been no just ground for the recognition of rebellion and disobedience to lawful authority, yet that it would have sanctioned a separation made for purposes of harmony, without feelings of hostility to the parent body, and with such obvious and palpable evils growing out of the previous relation. It had also been stated in a semi-official form, that the Grand Lodge of Ireland had assented to the Lodges under her jurisdiction assuming the independent character referred to, and it was not supposed that the Grand Lodge of England would interpose an objection to a like course, on the part of the Lodges under her jurisdiction, when they *unanimously* presented themselves in that attitude.

It would, however, now appear that it is a mere schism among the brethren, like in the State of New York, differing from the latter, however, in having been peacefully made, but from causes of mere inconvenience in the working of the details, whilst the latter alleged a deprivation of rights secured by compact.

As you was Chairman of the committee to whom the subject was referred at our last communication I have referred the enclosed paper to you, and now request that you will see the other two members of that committee, Bros. Heath and Page, and jointly give the matter, as it now stands, your serious consideration; and prepare such report thereon, in writing, as will enable you to present it to the Grand Lodge at its next special communication on the 24th inst. I intend to make the call for that assembling of the Craft, subservient as well to the purposes of our proposed celebration, as to the consideration of this subject, and intend, *officially*, referring the latter matter, at that time to the old committee, and hence my desire that you should have the advantage of the time between this date and the 24th inst., to give it some consideration.

I would respectfully direct your attention to the last number of Bro. Moore's Masonic Magazine, for a long editorial expressive of his views; and to the last number of the Mirror and Keystone, for an extract from the address of the Grand Master Evans of New York, on the same subject."

With considerations of fraternal regard,

CHARLES S. FRAILEY,

Grand Master.

TO B. B. FRENCH, ESQ., M. W. P. G. M.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF CANADA WEST, UNDER THE }
AUTHORITY OF THE M. W. GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND. }

To the M. W. Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia:

"It having been brought under the notice of this Provincial Grand Lodge that for several months past various Grand Lodges in the United States and elsewhere, had been applied to for recognition

by a new Masonic body, styling itself the Grand Lodge of Canada and this Grand Lodge being induced to believe from the sentiments expressed in relation to this schismatic movement, by our American brethren in their numerous Masonic publications, that they could not be in possession of the true facts of the case.

Therefore, it was unanimously resolved at a half-yearly meeting held at Toronto, on Wednesday, the 21st instant, "That the Grand Secretary be directed, under the supervision of the Board of General Purposes, to publish for the information of the Masonic fraternity at large, a statement of the facts connected with the recent movement of insubordination on the part of certain Lodges in this Province, *under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England*, the said Lodges, or certain members thereof, having, in order to gain recognition from the various Grand Lodges with which this Grand Lodge has long been in friendly communication, made use of statements which are not borne out by facts—these being to the prejudice of a very large portion of the fraternity who have, and who do still remain true to their mother Grand Lodge."

In furtherance of this object, they, (the self-styled Grand Lodge of Canada) state, that at the Convention held at Hamilton on the 10th of October last, there were forty-one Lodges represented, and that the action taken at that meeting was unanimous, with the one exception; *whereas*, of the forty-one Lodges there represented, fifteen were from the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, ten from Canada East, acting under warrants from England, one from Quebec, under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and fifteen under warrants from the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The number of Lodges belonging to this Provincial Grand Lodge at the time the Convention met, was fifty, since which time only seven have given official information of their affiliation with the new body; so that, at the present time, there are forty-three or the original number still true to their allegiance, to which may be added three new Lodges under dispensation, making the present number forty-six. Of the forty Lodges who, as stated in their published report, voted with the body, there were delegates from two belonging to this Grand Lodge—the mover and seconder of an amendment to the original motion respecting the formation of an independent Grand Lodge made at the said Convention, who did not vote in its favor; and this Grand Lodge has since ascertained that, in a great many instances, the delegates who voted in favor of the movement, (and by one a direct fraud was practised,) on returning to their Lodges were not sustained in the action they had taken; so that it may (leaving the Irish Lodges out of the question) be fairly assumed, that not more than half of those Lodges hailing from the Grand Lodge of England, and represented at the Convention do, in reality

belong to the new body. By this statement it will be at once seen, that a very great majority of the Canadian Masons remain true to their allegiance. The alleged cause which immediately led to the formation of the new body, was the refusal of the R. W. D. Grand Master, at a special meeting of this P. Grand Lodge, held at the Clifton House Niagara Falls, on the 19th of July last, to submit a motion from the chair, which, if carried, would have led to immediate and open rebellion on the part of the Canadian Craft to their mother Grand Lodges. He, in common with nearly the whole of the Lodges under his control, determined to remain true to their allegiance, but at the same time to employ every legitimate means for obtaining from the mother Grand Lodge those further privileges and immunities which this Grand Lodge had some two years previously asked for. This was the unanimous feeling of the P. Grand Lodge at an adjourned meeting on the following morning, when the disaffected Brethren were not present: and in furtherance of this object it was moved by Brother W. M. Wilson (the Master of the New Grand Lodge) "That Brother R. H. Townend be appointed the Special Agent of this Grand Lodge, and requested to use his best endeavors to obtain an answer to the petition of this Grand Lodge, and that he be invested with full power to act in the matter.

About a month prior to the half-yearly communication of the Grand Lodge, held in Toronto, on the 23rd of October following, a summons for said meeting was issued, which informed the Craft Brother Townend, our special agent, had brought the subject matter of our grievances before the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge of England, and that matters were in a fair way towards a satisfactory result, begging us to *wait patiently a short time longer*, and assuring us that we should have all our requirements granted us. This summons was sent to all the Lodges under this jurisdiction: but the recusant Lodges being unwilling to wait longer, at the Convention at Hamilton, on the 10th of October, assised in the formation of the new body, which at the meeting of this P. Grand Lodge, held on the 23rd of October, was declared illegal, and all Masonic intercourse was, by an unanimous vote, strictly forbidden. Thus matters remained until the meeting of this P. Grand Lodge on the 21st instant, when further information was received from Brother Townend, to the effect, that he had succeeded in bringing up the subject of our complaints before the Grand Lodge of England, and that the Craft throughout England were fairly aroused to our position, and fully alive to the justness of our demands, as will be seen by the following notice of motion to be made at the next Quarterly Meeting of the Grand Lodge of England, to be holden on the first Wednesday in June:

"That in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, it is expedient that

the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West should enjoy all the immunities and privileges of an *Independent Grand Lodge*, save and except, that it shall once in every three years, *submit the names of two or more Brethren* to the M. W. the G. M. of England *who shall appoint one* of them to be Provincial G. M.; and the Provincial G. M. so appointed, shall exercise the same powers within this Province as are exercised by the M. W. the G. M. in England. That it is further expedient, that the *same privilege* be accorded to *other foreign Provincial Grand Lodges on their petition*; and the M. W. the G. M. is hereby respectfully requested to carry this resolution into effect at as early a period as possible;” and also, “that the thanks of this Grand Lodge are due, and are hereby given, to those Canadian Lodges which have maintained their allegiance to the M. W. the G. M. and the Grand Lodge of England.”

From the above statement, it will be evident, that the dissaffected portion of the Masonic fraternity in this Province is comparatively small, although nearly the entire Craft agree in the belief, that an independent organization is essential to the proper and effectual working of the Craft in this Province; yet this Grand Lodge is fully determined to obtain this position in a legitimate manner, and not by violence, as in the case of the Canada Grand Lodge, whose existence as a Masonic body this Grand Lodge entirely repudiates.”

By order,

[L. S.]

FRANCIS RICHARDSON,
Grand Secretary.

TORONTO, May 28, 1856.

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

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

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

Your Committee have taken great pains to procure all the information they could relative to the subject, and have entered

upon the duty of re-examining it with the full purpose of doing Masonic justice to all the parties concerned; and after reading every paper before them, and weighing the whole matter as carefully as it was in their power to do, they can now only reiterate the conclusion to which they came in May last.

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

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

That circular commences by stating the plain fact "that the Freemasons of Canada, to the number of forty-one Lodges, having united in the establishment of a Grand Lodge of Canada," &c. Your Committee do not find that any one denies this statement. The circular proceeds, by giving the reasons why this assemblage of forty-one Lodges thought themselves justified in forming an Independent Grand Lodge in Canada, and so far from attempting to controvert those reasons, the Provincial Grand Secretary in his his circular, admits the force of them by saying—"nearly the entire Craft agree in the belief that an independent organization is essential to the proper and effectual working of the Craft in this Province."

The reasons thus given we will briefly state:

1. The absence of that progress in the Masonic art which has invariably attended the existence of duly constituted Lodges in other countries.
2. Want of harmony consequent upon the establishment of Lodges hailing from the Grand Lodges of different countries.
3. The injustice of the requirement of the Grand Lodges of Great Britain, that the Canadian Lodges should contribute to their funds, in addition to having to support three Provincial Grand Lodges, and to aid and assist Brethren emigrating from the mother country, thus doubly taxing the Canadian fraternity.
4. The inconvenience, fully and clearly set forth at length, of the distance between the Provincial Lodges and the controlling power.
5. The appointment of the Provincial Grand Master, by the Grand Master of England, and the nomination by him of all the other Provincial Grand Officers to the Grand Master of England for his confirmation, thus depriving the Canadian Lodges of any voice or control in the selection of their Grand Officers.

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

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

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

"These applications," say they, "appear to have been alike unavailing in procuring from the Grand Lodge of England any consideration of the claims of the Masons of Canada, for, at a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, on the 19th of July last, [1855,] it was officially announced, that no reply had been received from the Grand Lodge of England to any of these communications."

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

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

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

"From the time," says the circular, "when the four Lodges of London renounced their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of York, and formed themselves into an Independent Grand Lodge, up to the present period, [Nov. 10th, 1855,] the greatest number of

Lodges on record ever associated to erect a new Grand Lodge, was seventeen, whilst forty-one Lodges, and holding warrants, too, from three different jurisdictions, were harmoniously united in the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Canada."

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

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

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

There certainly is nothing in the circular of the Grand Lodge of Canada about "that meeting being unanimous with one exception," and if there be any statement of that kind elsewhere, your committee would regard it as meaning, that the action at Hamilton was unanimous, with one exception, *so far as the Lodges or representatives there present* were concerned. They say *forty-one* Lodges were represented, and is it to be supposed that sensible men would be so foolish as to suppose they could impose on others so gross a misrepresentation as that there were but *forty-two* Lodges in Canada when the whole Masonic fraternity of Canada knew to the contrary! If that argument means what your committee suppose, it amounts to nothing, and we have in vain striven, for the credit of the writer, to find in it some other meaning.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your committee cannot close their report on this very important subject, without giving some general views relative to it. One fact seems to them, were there no other, entirely to justify the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and that is, the disjointed and disorganized condition of the Craft in Canada as represented by Brother F. G. Tisdall, representative, we believe, in the Grand Lodge of New York, of the Grand Lodges of Canada West, Quebec, &c., in a communication addressed to the Philadelphia Mirror and Keystone, in June last. "On the 9th of October last" says Brother Tisdall, "there were eighty-four Lodges in the Canadas, viz:—fifty-one Lodges English register, under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, and fourteen Lodges, Irish register, responsible only to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, in the same province. Twelve Lodges, register of England, under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Montreal and William Henry; one Lodge, register of Scotland, and one Lodge, register of

Ireland, in the same District, and three Lodges, register of England, under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Quebec, &c. ; one Lodge, register of Scotland, and one Lodge, register of Ireland, in the same District."

With the Craft thus divided—to use the words of the Canada Grand Lodge circular—"hailing as they did from different Grand Lodges, and distributed as they were over a Province extending in length 1600 miles, in breadth averaging over 220 miles, being three times as large as Great Britain and Ireland—the means of communication, too, being very imperfect," is it to be wondered at, that there was an almost unanimous desire amongst the Freemasons of Canada to have an Independent Grand Jurisdiction of their own?

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

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

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

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

While your committee stand as firmly on the ground of Masonic Constitutionalism, assumed by those who have thus characterized this new Grand Lodge, as they possibly can, we have not been able to see the action of our Canadian Brethren in the same light that they do.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We have carefully read that report. It sets out the facts that "that portion of the Fraternity in Canada under the Grand Lodge of England is governed by three Provincial Grand Lodges." That "the Provincial Grand Masters are appointed by the Grand

Master of England." That "the dues paid by each Lodge to the Mother Grand Lodge are, for each Charter or Warrant of Constitution, \$25; for each Diploma, \$1 50; also a small sum for registering." That "the Grand Lodge of Scotland has only two or three Lodges under her jurisdiction in the Upper Province." That she has "a number in the Lower Province, and it appears from the reports of her Provincial Grand Master there, that all these stand firm in their allegiance." That "the Grand Lodge of Ireland has about fifteen Lodges."

We copy these facts as additional evidence, that the Craft in Canada are severed into parcels, and have no general head, but are amenable to the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland.

The committee of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts then proceeds to state all the difficulties existing among the Craft in Canada, in substance, as we have heretofore stated them in our report, and, we believe, differ in no point in stating facts, except that they also speak of *the one exception* to the unanimity of the Independent Grand Lodge on which we have before commented, as if it were contained in the statement of that Grand Lodge. Again we may say, *there is no such exception contained in our copy of that statement.* They also say, "our brethren state in their communication, that forty-one Lodges concurred in the formation of their Grand Lodge; but this does not seem exactly borne out by subsequent information."

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

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

Our brethren in Canada, with hardly any, if any exceptions, *as we are officially told from all sides*, have, for years, deemed their position such as to demand some action of the Grand Lodge of

England to relieve them from, what they certainly believe to be, heavy grievances, and the independent Grand Lodge circular states those grievances at length, and the Massachusetts Grand Lodge, with the coolness of the individual who thought the flood was not much of a shower after all, pronounce them "*simply inconveniences!*"

Your Committee agree, with the craft in Canada, that *they are grievances*, and heavy ones too—from which, as the Grand Lodge of England did not relieve them, they are justified in relieving themselves. Differing only in this *simple conclusion*, further argument between our Massachusetts brethren and ourselves would be a waste of time, as, if what we have already said, will not induce them to retrace their steps, we despair of saying anything that will, and most certainly, we shall not retrace ours, for we solemnly and sincerely believe we are right and they are wrong.

We will, however, notice especially, one point further of the report of our Massachusetts brethren. They say: "the naked question to be met is briefly as follows, viz. whether it is consistent with the recognized laws or customs of Freemasonry, for any portion of the Lodges under a particular jurisdiction to secede from the Parent Body, without its consent,—and to form, of their own authority, a new Body, having an independent existence and independent powers."

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

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

The Massachusetts committee have stated a case in which we cordially agree with them, but, unfortunately for their conclusion, it does not exist in this contest. How could such a number of different organizations be expected to proceed harmoniously? And the great wonder with your committee is, how the enlightened

Grand Lodge of Massachusetts could ever have come to the conclusion they did, from the premises on which they started!

The Massachusetts committee say, "the new Grand Lodge of Canada has been acknowledged by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and also by two of the Grand Lodges of the United States."

Your committee have seen it stated, and they have no reason to doubt the fact, that the following Grand Lodges, in addition to our own, are in affiliation or *correspondence* with the new Grand Lodge of Canada, viz: The Grand Lodges of Ireland, Michigan, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Louisiana, Kentucky, Alabama, Vermont, Indiana, Iowa, Florida, Connecticut, and Oregon.

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

Your committee respectfully submit the following resolution and recommend its adoption:

Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia seeing no reason to recede from the position she has already taken, re-affirms the resolutions unanimously adopted at her Semi-Annual Communication in May last, recognizing "the Grand Lodge of Canada" as an Independent Masonic Grand Jurisdiction.

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

GRAND LODGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

November 4, 1856.

The subject of the report having been fully discussed, a motion was made to lay it upon the table, which motion was decided in the negative.

A motion was then made, that the report be received and the resolution proposed by the Committee adopted, which was carried.

IOWA.

The Grand Lodge of Iowa have also taken up the subject of the recognition of the Grand Lodge, and have favored us with the following report and Resolution.

REPORT.

The Committee to whom was referred the Communication from a Grand Lodge of Masons in Canada, announcing the organization of an Independent Grand Lodge in that Province, report,

That having examined this communication with much care, and weighed the reasons which it sets forth as influencing the action of

the Craft in Canada ; as well as giving due respect and attention to the opinions and actions of several American and foreign jurisdictions upon this subject, they recommend to this Grand Lodge *a cordial recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada*, recently formed, of which Wm. M. Wilson is Grand Master and Thos. Bird Harris, Grand Secretary ; and that they coincide in the opinion expressed by the M. W. Grand Master of Iowa as to its legitimacy, and recommend that a full fraternal intercourse and friendship be extended to the said Grand Lodge of Canada.

They also offer the following :

Resolved, That a copy of this action of the Grand Lodge of Iowa be forwarded by the Grand Secretary to the Grand Lodge of Canada.

On motion the report and resolution accompanying the same were unanimously adopted.

The Grand Lodge of Kentucky has a report from their standing Committee on Foreign Correspondence which has given us much satisfaction, and which we have no doubt will be read by the Craft in general with great pleasure :

KENTUCKY.

The organization of an Independent Grand Lodge of Canada, has naturally aroused attention, while the peculiar circumstances surrounding the case have as naturally awakened debate, and even a degree of contention not yet quieted. Your committee beg leave to go, at some length, into a detail of the reasons which have influenced them in their conclusions.

That there is a degree of submissiveness due from every subordinate Lodge to its head is a fact we shall be the last to controvert. This submissiveness is to be referred not only to the stipulations embraced in the charter, but in the ancient landmarks of Masonry—the acknowledged law of the institution around the globe. And this submissiveness, in its proper degree, it is the part of every true Mason faithfully to maintain. Without it there can be no Masonry. It is no small part of the cord that has bound this fraternity together in all the centuries of its existence. It is this that in moments of political bitterness ; in times of high religious excitement, and in eras of dullness and inanition has maintained the integrity of Freemasonry, and preserved the landmarks to other and better days. This was particularly manifested in the great excitement of 1826 to 1826, wherein Masonry suffered to an extent that no society, having less powers of vitality, could have survived. Had it not been for the almost despotic powers of Grand Lodges, and the almost slavish sub-

mission of subordinates, the Royal Craft must have ceased to work.

But Masonry would be improperly termed free, and the relation between the body and the head would be most unnaturally and unphilosophically maintained, were there not such a thing as reciprocity or mutual rights and privileges, and mutual powers.—The powers of a subordinate Lodge are as well founded, and may be argued from even a larger degree of historical evidence, than those of the Grand Lodge. To establish this principle, and bring the matter fairly before you, we give entire the appeal made by the Independent Grand Lodge to the Grand Lodge of England immediately after the independent movement was announced.

[Here follows a copy of the address of the Grand Lodge of Canada sent to its sister Grand Lodges.]

An analysis of this important document exhibits the following points :

1st. The historical fact that Masonry has languished in Canada under the former regime.

2nd. That a diversity of work, &c., necessarily results from the fact that there are three Grand Lodges holding joint jurisdiction over the order in Canada.

3rd. The heavy expense attended upon the Provincial system, with no corresponding benefits.

4th The many and great inconveniences resulting from delays in communicating, upon Masonic questions, with the mother Grand Lodge.

5th. The disadvantages of being governed by a Provincial Grand Master, and under him, by the officers of his appointment, not of their own selection, nor of their own country, but a foreigner, unacquainted with their social position and peculiar requirements.

Each of these propositions is calculated to awaken serious reflection. That Masonry languishes in any particular section is a reason for general and profound regret, leading to anxious enquiries for the cause and cure. That there is such a diversity of work among the Lodges of Canada as seriously to hinder Masonic recognition among their respective subjects, is certainly sufficient grounds of general apprehension, and authorizes this Grand Lodge, and every other, to offer its advice in the premises. While the statements so forcibly put, of heavy expenses, ruinous delays, and other grievous inconveniences, afford, to an inquiring mind, a sufficient reason for the languishing condition of the Order, as first stated.

Our conclusions may be succinctly stated in the following paragraphs :

1st. If *three* Grand Lodges, to-wit, those of England, Scotland and Ireland may lawfully, and in common, charter Lodges within the Canadas, a *fourth*, established upon ancient principles in their midst, and confining its operations within those countries, may lawfully pursue the same grand design.

2nd. Whether or not the statements as to the number of Lodges (41) now affiliating with the Independent Grand Lodge, be strictly accurate or not, and whether the majority of these Lodges were from England, Scotland, or Ireland, the number of *three Lodges* lawfully and regularly at work, may, upon ancient principles, organize a Grand Lodge—and much more than that number engaged in the organization of the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada.

3rd. Whatever peculiar rights the Grand Lodge of England claimed, from political considerations, over the Canadas, they were released when they recognized the right of the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland to establish Lodges in the Canadas.

4th. The fact that the Grand Lodge of Ireland has regularly acknowledged this movement, and placed the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada in its correspondence, legitimatizes the movement in view of the fact that so many of the Lodges in the new organization had been subordinate to the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

In conclusion we beg leave to offer the following resolutions, viz :

1. *Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge of Kentucky extends the right hand of fellowship to the Grand Lodge of Kansas, and hails her as a free and independent equal, wishing her prosperity and honor while time shall endure.

2. *Resolved*, That an attempt be made, through the committee on Foreign Correspondence, to open a correspondence with every Grand Lodge in the world.

3. *Resolved*, That the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada, of which M. W. Bro. Wm. M. Wilson is Grand Master, and R. W. Thos. Bird Harris, Grand Secretary, in its efforts to uphold the banner of Ancient Masonry, has our warmest approval and recognition ; and we do, in the most fraternal manner, welcome the said Grand Lodge to the galaxy of American Grand Lodges, with which we are in correspondence.

ROB. MORRIS, *Chairman*.

TEXAS.

The standing Committee of the Grand Lodge of Texas also enter into the subject in a lengthy report and after giving the address of the Grand Lodge of Canada says : “ such is the simple, pathetic and convincing appeal of our Brethren in Canada. In all our acquaintance with Masonic history we have yet to find an effort of this sort in which the origination of a Grand Lodge was contemplated, which embodies so much that touches the heart while it satisfies the mind.”

Your Committee feel that they have trespassed much on the patience of the Grand Lodge, but they cannot close their report without speaking of one who has propounded the masterpiece of historical deduction in defence of the Constitutionality of the Grand Lodge of Canada, to be found in the annals of Freemasonry, emanating from the pen of our M. W. Br. Philip C. Tucker, Grand Master of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Vermont, and so much of his address as pertains to Canada your Committee have copied into their report, that it may be preserved as a memento of his genius and generosity and shown to our children (sons of the mystic tie) when the yellow leaf of old age shall have passed over our brows and numbered us with the past.

VERMONT.

The Grand Master proceeds as follows.

“During the past year the important question relating to the Grand Lodge of Canada—and which this Grand Lodge passed upon, to its own entire satisfaction, at its last Annual Communication—has been agitated in other Grand Lodges with different results. The Grand Lodge of Ireland, and the Grand Lodges of Kentucky, South Carolina, Louisiana, Michigan, Iowa, the District of Columbia, and some others, I am advised, agree with the decision made by Vermont. The Grand Lodges of England and Scotland, abroad, and those of Massachusetts, New York, Missouri and Virginia, at home, hold adverse opinions to ours. The Grand Lodges of Maine, Wisconsin, Connecticut, and some others, have the subject under consideration, and some of the Grand Lodges of the United States have not, so far as I am informed, yet taken it up for consideration at all.

“It is not to be doubted, that if this Grand Lodge saw even specious reasons to sustain the opinion that its action had been premature on this important subject, it would, from a sense of duty review it. Assuredly if I had been convinced ; or—even less than that—had I any strong reasons to create doubt as to the entire correctness and soundness of our action of last year I should feel it to be my duty now to recommend a new investigation. I have endeavored to obtain all the information in my power, and to examine carefully and impartially all the argument which has come to my hand during the year ; and so far from finding any weakening of my opinion, the result has been to strengthen and confirm the judgment I had previously formed—that both as a matter of duty, of honor, of policy, and of sound Masonic principle, the Lodges of Canada which assembled at Hamilton on the tenth day of October

1855, and formed an independent Grand Lodge for Canada, acted lawfully and right, and upon every correct principle of Masonic law, usage, practice and precedent—as well as brotherhood—ought to be sustained by the Grand Lodges of the United States.

In the differences of opinion which have arisen out of the consideration of this subject, *one* Grand Lodge—out of great caution—has *reviewed* its action of last year. Massachusetts, with her aged Grand Lodge and her acknowledged Masonic learning and talent, staggered the District of Columbia by her adverse action ; or rather, perhaps, shook the opinion of its Grand Master. A re-investigation was directed by that Grand Master, the chairman of the Committee for the purpose being that enlightened, learned, and well, informed Mason Brother Benjamin B. French, of the city of Washington. The result is before the Masonic world. A thorough re-examination of the subject confirmed a most intelligent Committee in the former view taken by that Grand Lodge and their views were confirmed by it, supporting the decision which had been previously made. Brother French and his associates are among the most intelligent Masons of the United States, and they are brethren who can never be justly charged with lending their sanction to law-breaking or revolution in the Masonic world.

When this subject was under consideration in our own Grand Lodge, at its last Annual Communication, I studiously withheld any expression of my own opinion ; nor was that opinion known beyond myself, until you, my brethren, had, by a unanimous vote, extended the right hand of Masonic fellowship to the independent Grand Lodge of Canada. As I was not heard, in argument, then, I anticipate your willingness to hear me patiently now, when the correctness of your action has been questioned elsewhere.

Grand Lodges, as they exist at the present time and as they have existed from the year 1717, are wholly *new* institutions. They are not institutions of ancient date, and have no odor of antiquity about them. In the olden time every single Lodge was wholly independent, and the privilege of practising the Masonic rites was *inherent* in Masons, when assembled together in due form, as individuals. The Charter obtained, not far from the beginning of the fourth century, “from the King and Council,” by St. Alban, empowered those Masons simply to hold a “General Council,” which was called an “Assembly.” That “Council” or “Assembly” did not consist of members by delegations from Lodges. It was a *general* one, embracing the craft, as it then existed in England, *at large* ; and it was the duty of *every* Mason to attend it, if he lived within fifty miles of the place of assemblage and had “proper warning.”

“Nor was the gathering of the Masons at the City of York, under Prince Edwin, in 926, a *Grand Lodge*, in any fair modern

understanding of those terms. It was a "Congregation" of Masons only, who composed a "*General Lodge*," of which he was Grand Master. He was Grand Master of *Masons*, but not of a *Grand Lodge*, as now understood ; for *no such Grand body then existed*.

"It is doubtless true that the York "*Assembly*" exercised jurisdiction, in its day, over *all* the Masons of England ; probably from 926 to 1567, but such jurisdiction was not considered, by those Masons, as *exclusive*. It was not thus acknowledged by them; for in that same year 1567—without reference to the York "*Assembly*" at all—the Masons of the Southern part of England placed themselves *independently* under a new Grand Master and there was, for a long period of years, two Grand Masters for that Kingdom.

In the early part of the 18th century, Masonry generally in England had fallen into disuetude. In the year 1715, four London Lodges assembled upon their own motion, and by their own voluntary action constituted themselves a "*Grand Lodge pro tempore*." At the annual assembly and feast, on Saint John the Baptist's day, 1717, these same Lodges, thus, by self-action constituted into a Grand Lodge, for the first time adopted a regulation to restrain the old unlimited manner of Masonic meetings and to establish Lodges in certain places, which should be legally authorized to act by a warrant from the Grand Master, with the consent and approbation of the Grand Lodge, and that, without such warrant, no Lodge should be deemed regular or constitutional.

"Here then we have four Lodges, arranged upon the *old* system congregating themselves together to inaugurate and establish a *system*. The whole history of things at York was unheeded by them ; no consent is asked from that quarter nor is even the *then Grand Master of the Masons of England* consulted, who was living in that same city of London, and who did not pay the debt of nature until the year 1723.

"From this action sprang the Grand Lodge of England, which has come down to our own times. Ireland followed first, and Scotland succeeded her. I do not refer to any Masonic organization of this kind upon the continent of Europe, because with them we have no common policy, no long connexion, and especially because upon this continent, we have never looked to that quarter for Masonic precedent.

"The beginning of Grand Lodges, as we understand those institutions in our own day, was established at the London meetings of the four Lodges of 1715 and 1717. Ireland followed the path made by *them*. Scotland followed in a manner, though not *identical* quite as *independent*, and the Grand Lodges, on this side of the Atlantic, have found no occasion for widening and enlarging the precedent of 1715-17.

"I do not mean, for a moment, to doubt the *wisdom* of the action of 1715-17, or the right of the four London Lodges, to *do* precisely what they *did* do. I intend to claim, however, that *other* Masonic action, equally legitimate, equally worthy, and equally important, is *as equally* to be *recognized* at this hour as if it had the sanction of one hundred and forty years to strengthen the foundation of its *right*. I am not aware that any intelligent mason desires to disturb a system of action which has been sanctioned by a long acquiescence, and which has resulted in the harmony and happiness of the Order. I yield to the power of a precedent, however established, which settles a wise course of future action, but I can never agree to see a *new* precedent tortured into working the highest practical injustice.

"The Grand Lodge of Ireland dates from 1730. It was formed in "imitation of the Grand Lodge of England" and chose for its first Grand Master a Brother who had been, the previous year, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England. The Constitution and usages of the Grand Lodge of England were adopted by it.

"The Grand Lodge of Scotland was formed in 1736. Masonry had then existed in that country for centuries; but not until November the 30th—Saint Andrew's day—of that year, did the Lodges of that country assemble to organize as a common body and choose their own Grand Master. Previously the Grand Mastership of Masons for Scotland had been hereditary in the family of Roslin. William St. Clair of Roslin, having intimated to his Masonic brethren his wish to resign his hereditary Grand Mastership, assembled his brethren of the Lodges in and about Edinburgh, and wished them to determine upon a plan for the *election* of a Grand Master. Thirty-four Lodges appeared or were represented by their proxies, and, at this meeting, the office of Grand Master in Scotland became for the first time *elective*. This Grand Lodge had the assent of the *Grand Master of Masons* of Scotland for its formation, differing in this particular from the Grand Lodge of England.

"The entire history of the formation of these three Grand Lodges is overwhelming—I had almost said omnipotent—to prove that they were all *voluntary* Masonic associations, growing naturally out of the necessities of the Order, and assuming, as associations, the power of proper organization as an *inherent* right. It was never claimed—and it never can be truthfully claimed that any *ancient Constitution* conferred the right which was exercised. Old Constitutions and charges may be studied for that in vain.—The right to form such bodies was *assumed*, and the *extent of jurisdiction* was also *assumed* and engrafted upon it, as well as the form and manner of Masonic government.

"Neither of the three Grand Lodges, thus formed, went so far

as to assume *exclusive* Masonic jurisdiction out of England, Ireland and Scotland. The only *exclusive* power assumed was to their own respective territories at home. When those were passed they exercised a common power. Wherever any one of them might grant a warrant of constitution or locate a Provincial Grand Master *abroad*, either of the others might do the same. The Grand Lodges of England and Scotland so understood the subject and both of them created Provincial Grand Masters in the colony of Massachusetts, antecedent to the revolution. The subsequent history of the Masonic bodies established by those Provincial Grand Masters is full of interest, as bearing upon the question under consideration, and I shall have cause to refer to it in the course of my examination of this subject.

One, at least, of the Provincial Grand Masters appointed by the Grand Lodge of England, did not understand that the American revolution severed the *Masonic* connexion between the parent power and the newly created States upon this Northern continent. In 1791 the R. W. John Johnson, then the English provincial Grand Master of Lower Canada, granted a warrant of constitution to his Excellency Thomas Chittenden, then Governor of the State of Vermont, and his associates, for the establishment of a Lodge at Vergennes, by the name of Dorchester Lodge. This Lodge was duly constituted under that warrant and worked under it until October, 1794, when, in connexion with the other four Lodges in the State which had Charters from the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts and New York, it aided in forming the present Grand Lodge of Vermont, and forcibly severing its connexion with Canada, has ever since hailed under the new jurisdiction.—The provincial Grand Master of Canada never complained of this action or denied the right of Dorchester Lodge, of its own motion, to make the severance and aid in establishing a new and independent jurisdiction.

“It was assumed by all the State Masonic institutions of this country which existed before the revolutionary war, that the dissolution of the *political* necessarily involved a dissolution of the Masonic tie, and they acted accordingly. This, in my judgment, was a further stretch of the line of Masonic independence than anything which has happened since. I am not aware that a Masonic pen was ever raised to sustain this assumption as resting on authority, precedent or principle; and yet three out of four of the Grand Lodges of the United States, who shrink instinctively from the word *independence* when the stern north-wind bears it to us from Canada, found no difficulty either in using the word or carrying out the full force of its meaning *practically* in their own cases.

“Ever since the American Revolution the Masonic practice in the United States has been,—that when three or more warranted

Lodges are established in any State or Territory where no Grand Lodge exists, they possess the *inherent* right to meet together and form one themselves, and it is not, and never was considered necessary to ask the consent of the Grand Lodge or Grand Lodges from which their respective warrants emanated, for this purpose. Most of the Grand Lodges in the United States have been formed in this way, and every Grand Lodge has sanctioned this mode of action, so that the practice and the principle are beyond dispute.—I need only name Iowa, Texas, California, Minnesota, Oregon, Kansas :—Grand Lodges all comparatively of yesterday, and all formed in this and in no other manner.

“With what show of reason then can we discard this acknowledged principle and practice? England, Scotland, Ireland, assumed it and the Grand Lodges of the United States have followed out the assumption. What decent apology can we give for attempting to discard it now, only because our northern brother has followed in the common path?

“Nice distinctions have drawn and all kinds of contrasts and comparisons invoked, to show differences between the case of the independent Grand Lodge of Canada and all antecedent precedents. I have been unable, thus far, so far to stultify my own intellect as to appreciate them as proving distinctions in *principle*. Two or a dozen sets of facts, may fall within the fair application of the same principle, though, in many respects variant from each other. It requires none of the suitable logic of special-pleading to make this obvious to every unprejudiced and clear-minded man; but when a set of facts, having no common analogy whatever with another set of facts, are drawn into a controversy and made the basis of an argument, those who rely upon them ought at least to be able to show their assimilation as bearing upon the principle they are relied on to sustain.

“The Canadian: Masonic action of the 10th of October, 1855, has, in some quarters, been treated as analagous to the various Masonic revolutions in the State of New York. To my own conceptions, no analogy was ever more absurd. Had England experienced a division of her own Grand Lodge, by revolutionary means, on the soil of England, at home, the cases would have had some resemblance to each other; but they have no more resemblance of revolution now, than the formation of the last Grand Lodge of Michigan—by Lodges holding warrants from the Grand Lodge of New York—has of revolutionary action towards that State. Michigan had the right to go alone when she was masonically and constitutionally strong enough, on well recognized principles; as Vermont had, and many other States, and as they *did*, without exception from any quarter.

“And precisely with as much propriety might Massachusetts, with

her two warranted Lodges in Vermont in 1794 ;—New York, with the same number, and England itself, with its *one*,—granted through its Provincial Grand Master of Lower Canada, declare the Grand Lodges which those Subordinate Lodges formed, to be unmasonic and revolutionary, as they may now make such an assertion as to the independent Grand Lodge of Canada.

Until it be proved—which it has not been, and cannot be—that the Constitutions and Charges of Edwin transmitted to us some “ancient land-marks,” recognizing Grand Lodges in their present manner of formation, and recognizing also the powers now claimed by the Grand Lodge of England and its supporters, as well-established portions of legitimate ancient Masonic law and right, it is worse than idle to maintain, in the face of the Masonic usage and precedent of the last one hundred and forty years, that a competent body of regular Lodges, existing in a State or Territory where there is no independent Grand Lodge, have not the right to form one. *If they have not, it is more than doubtful whether there is a legitimate Grand Lodge on the Continent of North America.*

“I have thus far treated this important question as Masonic history, principle and usage bear upon it; and I most sincerely regret that it was not placed upon this *sole* ground from the beginning. Broadly sustainable as it is here, it needed no other argument to constitute any additional support. Still there are other facts, connected with the formation of the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada, which cannot be forgotten, and *ought not* to be forgotten, in considering the subject.

“The Masons of Canada were, to a large extent, men whose birth-places were abroad. The sympathies of their members were largely with their mother country across the ocean, and this natural and honorable feeling was all-powerful with them to prevent any rashness or disrespect towards those foreign Masonic jurisdictions to which they acknowledged allegiance. Knowing and feeling the inconveniences of their position, the neglect of their wants, and the denial of their just rights, they submitted to years of humble complaint, of brotherly solicitation, of manly petitioning, and of mild remonstrance—and they submitted in vain. No kind response, no appreciation of self-evident wrongs, breathed its gentle breath across the broad Atlantic. They were compelled at last, unwillingly to realize that all foreign hope was ended, and that the future of their Masonic happiness must depend upon themselves. Thus situated, forty-one Lodges, holding warrants of constitution under the authority of the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland, after circulating notice of their intention for several months, assembled at Hamilton, on the 10th day of October, 1855, severed all foreign connection, and constituted for themselves a Grand Lodge of Canada.

"The wrongs and grievances to which I refer have been sometimes denied, and the representations of these forty-one Lodges have been caviled at by enmity and hawked at by ignorance; but an earlier justification has already come than the new Grand Lodge could have anticipated, and its own truth is sustained, even from the mouths of its opponents. On the 23rd day of October last, the body of Canadian Masons which styles itself 'The Provincial Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Canada West, under the United Grand Lodge of England,'—*which body still acknowledges and adheres to its foreign allegiance*—memorialized the Grand Lodge of England upon its position, and in that memorial has set forth substantially the existence of the same grievances which had been previously set forth, and which, having been treated with scorn and contempt in the quarter to which they were addressed, had *forced* the forty-one Lodges to their independent action of October 10th, 1855.

Had the forty-one Lodges of Canada postponed their action and continued to bear oppression longer, subsequent events have shown that 'scorpions' were doomed to succeed the 'whips,' and while they remained within the portal of foreign jurisdiction they must leave all hope upon the outside. At the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of England on the 4th of June, 1856, when a petition from Canada West was alluded to by a member upon the floor, which petition had been presented to the Grand Master, and notice had been given of a motion by Brother Portal, 'for granting privileges to the Grand Lodge of Canada West,' the Grand Master announced, *even before the motion was brought forward*, that he should 'refuse putting it from the chair.' He went on to remark that 'the *Grand Lodge* had nothing to do with the petition,' and added, 'that he was perfectly justified in ignoring it.' He refused, also, to read a part of the petition.

"Upon this practice the Grand Lodge of England is a myth, having no substantial entity whatever; or, if it has any appreciable existence, it is but as the *shadow* of the Most Worshipful Earl of Zetland. I know not how these occurrences may strike the minds of the brethren of this Grand Lodge, but I am compelled to admit that no intellectual chemistry can find anything in my own conceptions which has the least affinity for them. A Grand Master quite as many years as any other living Brother on this side the Atlantic, and, so far as I know, on the other, I have a right to believe that the Masonic world will give me credit for having no disposition to restrict the legitimate prerogatives of that exalted station; but when the brother thus situated and thus responsible to the Masonic world at large, assumes an entire *personal* control over petitions; gratuitously refuses to put motions growing naturally out of them, even before they are offered, and withholds from his Grand Lodge the contents of papers in which that body

is interested, I can see only, in those acts, simple, unmitigated, unalloyed despotism. It is receding to the age of darkness and of iron. Masonry is too intelligent and enlightened to sanction it. If the Grand Lodge of England yields to it, she has arrived at the hour when the rising Sun of her East should be transferred to represent the setting Sun of her West, and in that changed position it will most appropriately emblemize her sinking Masonic glory.

I am not ready to say—and I, by no means, intend to say—that neglect and oppression by a Grand Lodge of her subordinates will, in all, or in a majority of cases, justify revolutionary measures. I design always to distinguish between that which is justifiably right and that which is obviously wrong. And I think that, in most cases which arise, there is usually a well marked line of distinction, which a well-informed and dispassionate man will experience no great difficulty in finding. I think, for instance, that I can perceive a very plain difference in the relations between a Grand Lodge and its subordinates existing in a single State or Territory and a Grand Lodge and its subordinates existing in different countries, thousands of miles apart, and separated by an ocean. I think I can appreciate the existence of a very clear distinction between the difficulties of a few years ago with the Grand Lodge of New York and a portion of her subordinate lodges and of those existing in 1855 between the Grand Lodge of England and her subordinate lodges in Canada. In the first case the disaffected Lodges, in the outset, formed a part of the Grand Lodge of New York. They were represented upon its floor, with as full privileges, as to being heard, as their associates; and if injured, with the undoubted right of renewing the consideration of the subject matters of difference, from time to time, and of laboring to bring the majority to their views, and of convincing them, by fact and argument, if they could. Thus situated, they preferred secession and forming a New Grand Lodge for themselves. This was *revolutionary* beyond doubt; and so has the Masonic world at large almost unanimously decided. But there is no fair parallel to this state of things in the case of Canada. The subordinate Lodges of Canada had no representation in the Grand Lodge of England. They were in a state of complete and absolute dependence and pupilage. They could only appear at the door of the Grand Lodge as humble supplicants for their rights, by written petition, without a single voice of their own upon its tessellated pavement to sustain and enforce their supplications. Their prayers of years were unheeded, their solicitations scorned, their injuries unredressed and even their money taken from them without acknowledgement or notice. Are these cases analagous? It would be the most palpable and wicked mendacity to say so. Wrongs, such as I have named, could not be borne forever. They left the Canadian Lodges but a single alternative—either to give in Masonry

wholly and entirely or to raise an independent Masonic standard. The impassable point had been reached; the last drop of the cup of forbearance had been drained; and—unwilling to be *forced* from the privileges and enjoyments of the Order—they made the selection of honorable independence, and appealed to the justice of a world-wide Masonry for sanction and brotherhood. This, in my judgment, was *not* revolution, but the exercise of a proper, necessary and just *right*; and the Masonic world will so decide, unless it is prepared to hold, that there is not, *in any case whatever*, a remedy for Masonic *oppression*.

Upon both grounds then,—my brethren,—as I view this subject;—of the *inherent* right of every State, Territory, or Country, to establish a Grand Lodge of its own and the right of a Country holding its Masonry from a foreign source to make a severance for unmitigated oppression,—I maintain, that the independent Grand Lodge of Canada, established at Hamilton on the 10th day of October, 1855, is legitimately and masonically established, and is entitled, justly and of right, to the sanction, countenance and support, of all the Grand Lodges in the world.

Within a few days after the Masonic action of the forty-one Lodges at Hamilton, the then Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York seems, evidently, to have become alarmed. Before the infant Grand Lodge of Canada was fairly invested with its swaddling-clothes he appears perfectly prepared to strangle it in its cradle. Seven days only were suffered to pass before he stigmatized as good men and worthy Masons as the world can elsewhere boast of, as being guilty of Masonic ‘rebellion,’ and then sounded the old atabal alarm of ‘rebellion’ at home. Without taking the trouble to distinguish between Canadian and New York ‘rebellion’ he seized upon the matter *a petitiō principii*, assimilated the two unlike cases by a single dash of the pen, raised from their quiet graves the longlaid skeletons of ‘heresy and schism,’ looked anxiously across the Atlantic to the long-withheld patronizing smile which had a few years past almost emblazoned the waves of old ocean in its passage from London to New York, and concluded that it would be the ‘height of ingratitude’ to England to do any thing less than proscribe the new and independent Grand Lodge of Canada. The same panic alarm seized his Committee of Foreign Correspondence in June following. Leo the Tenth and the Cardinals of the Vatican could hardly have been more alarmed at the appearance of the new dogmas of Luther. The shadows of ‘heresy and schism’ triumphed, and glorious New York, at the hands of her strong and great men, chose to confine her Masonic sympathies to her own side of the St. Lawrence.

Not thus did the Masonry of the Empire State reason when she formed her own independent Grand Lodge. She did not then rely upon the “implied or express consent of England,” nor seek

the consent of any Provincial Grand Lodge which had chartered local Lodges in her territory ; nor did she then understand that *rebellion* and *independence* were synonymous terms. She then felt the ability to stand up and walk in her own legitimate inherent strength ; she threw the crutches of English dependence in England's face and marched on triumphantly to her own high and glorious Masonic destiny. When I assert this I do it upon the authority contended for by the legitimate Grand Lodge of New York, which has always claimed that "in 1785 it adopted a new constitution and thereby *threw off all allegiance* to the parent body." Unless this be true, I see no escape from the position contended for by the revolutionary Grand Lodge of that State, which I understand to hold, "that, down to 1849, the Grand Lodge of New York continued to be *Provincial* to the Grand Lodge of England."

Before the declared independence of the Grand Lodge of New York, by the alleged action of 1785, that Grand body had, for several years been independent *de facto*. Her Provincial Charter required her to make return of her proceedings to the Grand Lodge of England and allow appeals to be taken thereto. But from and after September, 1777, she made no returns and suffered no appeals to be taken ; styled herself the Grand Lodge of New York and not the Provincial Grand Lodge, and claimed the independent title of *Most Worshipful* instead of *Right Worshipful*, the latter being the title of all Provincial Grand Lodges. For the term of about eight years then she acted independently, without declaring herself so, and her action, during that interregnum between dependence and undeclared independence, she has always claimed to have been correct and legitimate, and the Masonic world has not denied it. Upon principle, however, it would be difficult to find any thing as irregular as all this in any of the acts and doings of the forty-one Lodges of Canada.

Missouri, in refusing to acknowledge the independent Grand Lodge of Canada, offers no argument but the first impressions of her Grand Master, acquiesced in, apparently *pro forma*, by a Committee. The decision of Virginia I only know by a statement in the *Freemason's Magazine*, of Boston. I have not yet seen her proceedings ; but if the Grand Lodge of that venerable old State is perfectly satisfied with the facts and argument on which her own independence was established it is not easy to understand her want of appreciation of those which exist as to the independent Grand Lodge of Canada.

I have read the report of the Committee on this subject, adopted by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts—and considering the names it bears and the history of the formation of the Grand Lodge of that ancient Commonwealth, I have been more than surprised at some of its positions.

The report begins with the expression of a great deal of sympathy and expresses the opinion that independent organization is essential to the effective and proper working of the Order, in the opinion of the entire craft in Canada; but professes to find 'well-tried principles' in the way of recognition, and then states the question at issue to be, 'whether it is consistent with the recognized laws or customs of freemasonry, for any Lodges under a particular jurisdiction to secede from the Parent Body without its consent—and to form, of their *own* authority, a new body, having an independent existence and independent powers.'

Although the question might have been stated with greater fairness, I do not object to it as thus expressed. And I feel no difficulty in saying, that if the *consistency* of such action is denied *Massachusetts herself has no legitimate Grand Lodge whatever.*—She asked no *consent* to 'secede' from the 'parent body,' by either of her Provincial Grand Lodges. Both on the 2nd day of January, 1783—when the old Massachusetts Grand Lodge assembled, after an entire suspension of eight years, and in August 1787—when her St. John's Grand Lodge met, after a suspension of more than twelve years—we find no such idea dreamed of, so far as she has seen fit to disclose her history to the Masonic world. The Grand Master of one of her Grand Lodges laid in his shroud of glory under the 'King's Chapel' and the other also had passed away from earth.—An assumed 'elective supremacy,' in the one case, and a silently assumed *right* to act, in the other, were all that were thought necessary in those 'good days of old.' Nor was more thought needful when the Massachusetts, and St. John's Grand Lodges united in 1792 and formed the present Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

If all this action was not *secession* by what name is it to be described? Who ever *heard*, among it all, that the "*consent*" of the "parent body" was asked, and who so ignorant as not to *know*, that upon *self-assumed* authority Massachusetts inaugurated a "new body," with an "*independent* existence and *independent* powers." This being true, the Committee of Massachusetts must either disavow themselves or admit that *independent* action is to be enjoyed by them only in common with others.

I quote another paragraph from the report of the Massachusetts Committee :—'Each Grand Lodge in the United States rules and governs, without interference from any other, all Lodges within the civil jurisdiction of the State in which she is situated—hold the Territories as common ground, wherein each Grand Lodge is free to charter Lodges at pleasure, until *each Territory, by being regularly admitted to the Union as a State, acquires the right to form a Grand Lodge for itself.* Your Committee are aware that this has sometimes been done before admission *as a State*; but although it may be alleged, in excuse, that Territories are States

in process of formation, we still think the practice illegal, and *not to be justified in any case*, the only safe rule, in our opinion, being that laid down."

The first portion of this opinion admits of no controversy ;—no one denies its truth or correctness. The second portion has no truth to sustain it, and, if Massachusetts holds to it, she stands *alone*. I would be highly thankful to know, *when, where, and by whom* any such rule, as to the Grand Lodges of the *Territories*, was established and *what* Grand Lodge has either assented to or acquiesced in it. For myself I know of none. If such Grand Lodges are of doubtful validity, I cannot withhold the question, whether my own native and loved State is not now in full Masonic communion with Minnesota, Oregon and Kansas ?—and if she is *not*, why she does not inform her sister Grand Lodges that her Masonic compasses do not embrace them in their circle of Masonic brotherhood.

The Committee of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts find no difficulty in deciding that all the reasons given by the formers of the Grand Lodge of Canada, make out only a case of "simple *inconvenience*"; hold the action they have taken to be rebellious; assert that "in Masonry there can be no long continued oppression", that "there can be no temptation to tyranny, for nothing is to be gained by it," and that "within certain bounds, the will of the majority is absolute." They then most fraternally call the Grand Lodge of England "our venerable Mother," protest against the newly-formed Grand Lodge of Canada by resolution, and forbid all Masonic communication with it or with any Lodge or individual having any *connexion* therewith.

It is doubtless always 'inconvenient' for Masonry "to be governed by a power three thousand miles off and across an ocean. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts itself found it so at the close of the Revolutionary war and remedied the 'inconvenience' *by its own act*. Canada, even more inconveniently situated than Massachusetts, has simply done an act of the same kind. Is it possible, in the world's or in Heaven's high chancery, to hold one to be loyal and the other treasonable? That 'will of the majority' which 'within certain bounds is absolute,' and which the Massachusetts Committee see so clearly to be a protection against 'oppression and tyranny,' has been prostrated upon the floor of the Grand Lodge of England by the despotic will of the present Grand Master, and has, at this moment, as every well-informed Mason knows, only a *mythical* existence, at least within that Grand Lodge of 'our venerable Mother.'

In the *full* meaning of the second resolution passed by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, at the recommendation of its Committee, a very large range is taken. Carried out to its results as it obviously reads, some seven or eight State Grand Lodges, all

their subordinates and all the members of each, are literally excommunicated from association with the Grand body,—inasmuch as that number of Grand Lodges have agreed that they will have connexion with this same Grand Lodge of Canada. If this was actually intended it seems to me to open a fountain of bitter waters, illy adapted to promote the growth of Charity and Brotherly Love.

I have examined with some care, the communications of some Masonic writers on this highly interesting subject, with a view of learning all that was accessible ; and I am obliged to express my surprise at what has appeared in relation to it in some of our Masonic publications. It has been contended in one quarter, that the recognition of the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada by the Grand Lodge of Ireland is of no great importance, *because she has only about fifteen Lodges in Canada and did not burthen them with charges so harshly as the Grand Lodge of England did the Lodges holding warrants under her.* This is a singular argument to be urged, and very naturally leads to the enquiry, why, if Ireland's *acknowledgment* is of no importance, Scotland's *refusal* is of even as much weight when it is known that *she* had a far *less* number of Lodges in the Province under her care. If in a territory free and open for the admission of warranted Lodges by different foreign Grand Lodges, the question of right or wrong is to be settled by the greater or lesser number of Lodges introduced by each, then we have introduced a new Masonic rule of practice, the existence of which is yet unknown to our institutions and equally unknown to the intellectual tribunal of Masonic equity and justice.

And it has been contended too—strange as it may seem—that since the separation of Canada from France, the three Grand Lodges of Great Britain and Ireland, have “ held and improved” that Province, (to use the language of the writer,) as a “*coparcenary*” or a partnership in inheritance, with a *joint* right of succession”—as “one heir, holding the premises as an estate in common.”—With such a view of her position, Canada might well complain that this interesting Masonic *partnership* of the rose, the harp and the thistle, did not transact its business under some regular partnership title and issue its Lodge warrants in the name of the firm. It might also have been important to enquire, in what respective individual proportions these *joint partners of Canadian Masonic rights and privileges* owned the Masonic stock of such a glorious inheritance and not have left so important a matter wholly to inference. The author of the argument to which I am addressing myself brings down his statistics no further than the year 1848, at which time, according to his information, said stock consisted of ninety-seven shares, of which England possessed eighty, Ireland fifteen and Scotland two.

Upon the legal theory suggested, the writer might with propriety have insisted that England and Scotland should have enjoined Ireland from interfering with their *partnership* rights by acknowledging Canadian Masonic independence.

A *partnership* where each separate partner acts independent of the firm, transacts his part of the business independent of his associates, carries it on in his own name and on his own responsibility, and has a "joint undivided interest" and a "right of survivorship" besides, in so large a property as the Masonic territory of Canada, *without knowing it or suspecting it himself*, is an invention which leaves steam and telegraphs in the far distance and will only be equalled by the discovery of a practically successful rudder to the balloon.

It is among my strongest wishes personally to see the Masonry of this continent firmly established on its own unsculptured Doric column—as strong in its moral as are the pyramids in their physical strength. Every lawful Masonic act which, to a fair and unbiased judgment, has a tendency in that direction, has always had and always will have, my warmest encouragement and firmest support. I sincerely and solemnly believe the movement in Canada to have been one of that kind and, in common with the members of this Grand Lodge, I have felt bound to give it the best support in my power. I have no doubt of its eventual success and that such success is most highly important both to the Masonry of Canada and of the United States. To ourselves, my brethren, who are the immediate neighbors of Canada and who know personally many of the officers and members of the independent Grand Lodge and of the Lodges which recognize its organization, it is wholly idle to talk about Masonic "rebellion." We know them to be legitimate and true Masons, and worthy of the name; law-abiding men; men whom we esteem for their manliness and their virtues; men with whom it is our pleasure and our pride to exchange the right hand of fellowship, and from an association with whom no bull of excommunication—come it whence it may—will ever be able to separate us. The Masonic course of their predecessors, more than forty years ago, and when the unfortunate cloud of war hung over our respective countries, is not unfamiliar to me. Some of its unpublished annals have survived and are in my own possession, preserved and transmitted to me by that most worthy Grand Master who preceded me in the oriental chair. Those annals show the same honorable, exalted and brotherly spirit which characterizes our Canadian brethren of the present hour. In sustaining such men and their lawful Masonic acts we sustain the Order in its purity and strengthen the foundation on which rests the Doric column of American Freemasonry.

P. C. TUCKER,
Grand Master.

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In conclusion your Committee feel that the various Grand Lodges have so ably discussed every notice which concerns the Grand Lodge of Canada, both for and against, that they deem it quite unnecessary to enter into the subject at any greater length, at this communication, and sincerely hope that ere another year rolls round, the mist which at early dawn, obscures our rising sun, will have entirely passed away.

H. B. BULL, *Chairman.*

The Grand Lodge was called from labour to refreshment, to meet at 8 o'clock, P. M.

The Grand Lodge resumed its sitting at 8 o'clock. P. M., the M. W. Grand Master on the Throne.

The Committee on Credentials Reported the following Representatives and Officers of Regular Chartered Lodges, in addition to those reported at the opening of the Grand Lodge, and of the Representatives of Lodges under dispensation, whom they recommend to be admitted, and take part in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge.

No. 1.—LODGE OF SOCIAL AND MILITARY VIRTUES, MONTREAL.

Br. C. Van Felson, I. G.

No. 9.—ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, ST. CATHERINES.

W. Br. F. Parsons, W. M. and Rep.

No. 14.—ST. JOHN'S LODGE, LONDON.

W. Br. Jas. Moffat, G. S. D., W. M. and Rep.

Br. Ed. Garrett, J. W.

“ Joseph Rolfe, P. M.

“ A. S. Abbott, G. Steward, P. M.

No. 15.—ZETLAND LODGE, MONTREAL.

W. Br. J. H. Isaacson, G. S. W., W. M. and Rep.

No. 16.—KING SOLOMON'S LODGE, TORONTO.

W. Br. Wm. H. Miller, W. M. and Rep.

“ S. B. Campbell, P. M.

“ J. E. Smith, G. J. D., P. M.

“ G. L. Allen, D. D. G. M., P. M.

No. 26.—VAUGHAN LODGE, MAPLE.

Br. W. C. Morrison, (Proxy.)

No. 30.—ACACIA LODGE, HAMILTON.

Br. Thos. Duggan, P. G. S. of W., S. W.

No. 25.—SHEFFORD LODGE, WATERLOO.

W. Br. M. Mitchell, W. M. and Rep.

Br. G. C. Robertson, S. W.

On motion, the Report of the Committee on Credentials was unanimously adopted.

Several visiting Brethren made application for admission, and with the consent of the M. W. G. M., were permitted to be present.

It was moved by R. W. Br. Simpson, seconded by R. W. Br. Bellhouse, and unanimously adopted.

That the Report of the Standing Committee on Foreign Correspondence be received and printed, with the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, and that the Grand Secretary file a copy of the said Report in the archives of the Grand Lodge, instead of copying it into the Minute Book.

It was moved by W. Br. H. B. Bull, seconded by V. W. Br. Crouse and unanimously adopted,

That the thanks of this Grand Lodge are hereby heartily tendered to the various Grand Bodies who have so fully discussed the question relative to the Establishment of the Grand Lodge of Canada, many of whom have evinced a research and knowledge of masonry, alike creditable to themselves as well as useful to the Craft in general.

The R. W. Dep. Grand Master for Montreal District, presented his report which was read, and on motion received.

MONTREAL, June 22nd, 1857.

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR,—

An apology is due for my having delayed this communication until this late date. The protracted absence from town of one of the clerks in the house in which I am a partner, thereby causing me double labour, is the great and now immediate cause.

In laying before you the affairs and state of Masonry in this District, I shall do so in as short terms as possible; for indeed, though the interests of the craft continue to be manifested, I feel that I have not much of any great importance to bring before you. Since I had the honor of holding this position, not one new lodge has been formed in the District, and nothing of any moment has occurred, rendering it necessary to call into active service the important duties of my office. There are in this District six Lodges, viz :—The Lodge of Social and Military Virtues, No. 1; St. George's Lodge, No. 13; Zetland Lodge, No. 15; Hoyle Lodge of Lacole; St. Andrew's Lodge of St. Andrews. All of the above Lodges are in a flourishing condition. Hoyle Lodge numbering 13 members, though small is composed of brethren having the interest of the Craft deeply at heart, and who are disposed rather to be Conservative in their admission to membership than otherwise. I deeply regret to say that the Jacques Cartier Lodge, last on the

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list, never flourished at all, although commenced under what was considered to be the most favorable auspices. The reason for this I am not prepared fully to state, unless it be a want of interest on the part of those who first undertook its management.

I thought it inexpedient to take any steps in reference to the inefficient state of this Lodge, nor did I think it best to take any action against it, choosing rather to leave the matter in the hands of the Grand Lodge. Having never made any returns, nor entitled itself to the name of a Lodge, its warrant should, in my opinion, be forfeited.

It becomes my painful duty to inform you that twice, within the past few months, have the Craft been called upon to perform with Masonic rites, the burial service of our Order, at the funerals of two of our distinguished brethren. The first Col. Robt. Hoyle, late W. M. of Hoyle Lodge, Lacole, an honored citizen and an old veteran in the cause of Masonry, who lived respected, died regretted, and was followed to the grave by the Members of Hoyle Lodge in full regalia, and by many of the citizens of the place.

Very Worshipful Brother Wm. M. Brown, late W.M. of the Lodge of Social and Military Virtues, was also buried with ample Masonic honors, and well deserving was he of the honor, for by his uprightness and intelligence as a citizen, his zeal, ardour, ability, and long services in the Craft, he had won for himself a name, that will live enshrined in the affections, not only of the citizens of Montreal generally, but of every brother who knew him, or who had ever heard of him. We shall never more receive from him the warm-hearted grasp, or extend to him the right hand of fellowship; we shall never more listen to his work in Lodge, nor hear his animated voice in Counsel; but we can emulate his virtues and copy his zeal, so that his death, which we trust is to him a great gain, may be to us a lesson, teaching us the wisdom of resigning ourselves to the fiat of T. G. A. O. T. U. who will soon cause death, the grand leveller of human greatness, to reduce us all to the same state.

I have not been able, as I could have wished, to visit the country Lodges, but I hope and trust that wherein I have failed in duty, my successor may not fail in performing his.

I have the honor to be,

M. W. Sir and Bro.,

Yours fraternally.

P. D. BROWN,

Dis. Dp. G. M., Montreal Masonic District.

To COL. WM. M. WILSON, }
M. W. G. M., }
Grand Lodge of Canada. }

R. W. Br. Stephens gave notice that he would on to-morrow move that the M. W. Br. H. T. Buckus, P. G. M. of the state of Michigan, be constituted an honorary member of this Grand Lodge with the Rank of P. G. M.

The M. W. Grand Master then read the following

ADDRESS.

It is with much pleasure that I again meet the representatives of the Craft, assembled in Grand Lodge. It is also a source of gratification to me that our present meeting should take place in the city of Montreal—the head quarters, if I may so term it, of Masonry in the Lower Province—the great extent of our Masonic jurisdiction, makes it desirable that our annual meetings should not be confined to one locality, however central it may be, and it is also wisely ordered, in our admirable book of Constitutions, that the place of holding the next communication shall be decided at the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge, so that it remains with yourselves to decide where our next annual communication shall take place.

Before leaving you to the discharge of the important duties now devolving upon you, it may not be deemed inappropriate or out of place, were I briefly to refer to the various Masonic incidents which have taken place during the past year, and to offer such suggestions for your consideration, as may appear to me, likely to advance the great object for which we are associated.

The system which now prevails among our Sister Grand Lodges, of carefully preserving in their archives and on their records, the reports annually made by their executive, together with a full statement of all their proceedings, appears to me worthy of imitation, not only as affording a ready reference for all statistical and other information, which may from time to time be required, but as preserving also, for the future historian and masonic student, much valuable knowledge, and many interesting particulars which would otherwise be lost in oblivion. I much regret, however, that in my own case, the many calls upon my time and attention during the past year, have almost entirely prevented me from devoting that amount of time, care and attention, to the composition of an address, which the importance of the subject merits, and which you have a right to expect. I must, therefore, with this explanation, content myself by very briefly referring to many subjects which deserve a more careful elaboration.

The present state of Masonry in Canada still continues to excite the liveliest interest in the Masonic world, and while on the one hand, we are perfectly satisfied that the recent movement has been productive of much real benefit to the Canadian Craft, we have also reason to believe that the cause of Masonry itself has been advanced throughout the world, not only by the research that

has been induced, but also by the discussions on the subject, to which that movement has led ; the student of masonic jurisprudence can now find on record the carefully prepared and well digested opinions of some of the most enlightened craftsmen of the age, for who can read the brilliant and logical address of a "Tucker," or the powerful arguments of a "French," without coming to the conclusion, that the Masons of Canada, in forming their Grand Lodge, proved themselves good workmen and intelligent masons. In addition to the two distinguished brethren whom I have named, as having devoted a portion of their time to the investigation of this most important enquiry. I might name a host of bright particular stars in the masonic firmament, who, by their talents, have thrown a flood of light on the subject ; and first in rank, as in our personal regard, comes the author of that great and truly valuable work—"The Masonic Code"—the much esteemed and universally known "Rob Morris"—acting upon the principle—be sure you're right, then go ahead !—he first satisfied his own mind upon the subject, and then his powerful pen and his extensive influence, were exerted in our behalf. The erudite Mackay, whose master-mind is imbued and stored with masonic lore, at once stamped the movement with the seal of his approbation. The Editor of the London *Freemason's Magazine*, the Editors of the *Messenger*, of New York, the *Mirror and Keystone*, the Cincinnati *Review*, and though last not least, our own valued *Pioneer* of Montreal, together with many distinguished writers in these and other periodicals, have all contributed, by their talents, and by their learning, to establish our Grand Lodge in that position which she has so properly assumed.

The division of the Province into seven Masonic Districts by this Grand Lodge, at its last annual communication, and the appointment of a District Deputy Grand Master for each Division, relieved me from much of the duty which I felt devolved upon me during my first term of office ; I allude more especially to the necessity of personally visiting our subordinate Lodges ; however, as during the first year I had visited nearly all our Lodges in the Upper Province, I felt an anxious desire to examine personally into the condition of Masonry in Lower Canada.

In September last, I was enabled to carry out my wishes in this respect to some extent, and after meeting our Montreal brethren, visiting the Lodges in the Eastern Townships, and inspecting their working, returned westward, visiting Brockville and other Lodges on my way home. The kindness and attention with which I was received by the brethren generally, will long remain a cherished recollection ; and it is most gratifying to me to be able to report to this Grand Lodge, that in no part of our extensive jurisdiction, are the true principles of Masonry better understood or more

earnestly practised, than I found them to be in the Eastern part of this Province.

In August last, assisted by several of the Grand Officers, I consecrated Alma Lodge, in the Town of Galt, and installed its officers.

In October last, the foundation stone of Grace Church, in Brantford, was laid by me, assisted by the Grand Lodge, with Masonic honors.

And on St. John's Day, in December, I assisted in the labours and joined in the festivities of our warm-hearted brethren of London, in Western Canada.

In November last I received a letter from the Mayor of Cobourg, informing me that the Corporation had passed a resolution requesting me, as Grand Master, to assist them in laying the corner stone of a Town Hall, which they were about to erect in that municipality. I at once acceded to the request, and gave the necessary instructions to the Grand Secretary. After the subordinate Lodges had been duly notified, and within a few days of the time appointed for the ceremony, I received another letter from the Mayor, (who is also a brother Mason) informing me with many apologies, that as the Cobourg Lodge, as well as the others in that neighborhood still retained their connection with the Provincial Body, and were unwilling that the Grand Lodge of Canada should officiate on that occasion, it was thought prudent to withdraw the invitation. On receipt of this letter, the orders previously given by me, were at once countermanded. The stone was subsequently laid, as I am informed, by our right Worshipful Brother, Sir Allan N. McNab, an officer of the Grand Lodge of England. I make no comment on the matter, but think it proper that you should be acquainted with the circumstances connected with it.

I have much pleasure in officially announcing to you, that on the 2nd day of April last, the Grand Officers, who had been previously elected at a Convention of Royal Arch Masons, hailing from a constitutional number of Chapters, were duly installed, and the *Grand Chapter of Canada* proclaimed and established, by competent authority and according to ancient practice.

The establishment of a Grand Royal Arch Chapter in Canada is a matter of gratulation to every true Mason, and affords to every lover of sublime Masonry, a pleasing subject of contemplation; for, as it has been well remarked, it is that which alone enables the possessor to acquire that knowledge so indispensable to a proper understanding of ancient Masonry, and to a due appreciation of the beauties of the Craft. The defective link in symbolic Masonry is restored in capitular Masonry—the mysterious and impressive *word* lost in the catastrophe of the First Temple, is herein brought to view, and the whole chain of sequences following therefrom, is

a study deserving the profoundest attention, as it not only amply rewards the earnest investigator, but must also add much to the knowledge of the devoted Mason.

The character for intelligence which is justly accorded to the Masons of Canada, causes me no room to doubt the general spread of Royal Arch Masonry amongst us, or that, ere many years elapse, each lodge under your jurisdiction will have a chapter attached to it. I may add also, that the influence of sublime Masonry has always proved favorable to the best interests of Symbolic Masonry.

Among the Masonic events of the past year, worthy of notice and remembrance, I would not omit briefly to allude to the solemn and affecting scene which took place on the 16th of March last,—I refer to the great gathering of Masons at the Falls of Niagara, on the melancholy occasion of the funeral of Br. Zimmerman, who with many other valued members of society were in a moment hurried into eternity, by the frightful accident which occurred on the Great Western Railway, near Hamilton. Brethren from all parts of the Province, and from many States of the Union, assembled to do honor to his remains. Circumstances prevented me from being present at the ceremony, which was conducted under the auspices of this Grand Lodge, but I read with deep interest the very able description published in the *Spectator* and other periodicals, of the proceedings which took place on that occasion.

Knowing but little, personally, of Br. Zimmerman, *as a Mason*, I am unable, of course, to speak of him as such, but his indomitable energy, his determined perseverance, and his great natural ability, coupled with his enterprise and public spirit, were so generally known and admitted, that his loss was indeed felt to be a public one.

The Brethren, as a mark of respect to a distinguished member of the Fraternity, and as an evidence of their deep sympathy with the unspoken sorrows of a widowed heart, mourning for the ir-reclaimable dead, assembled in large numbers to attend his remains to the grave; and I think it would be difficult to imagine a scene more calculated to impress the mind and imagination than the one presented to the large assemblage of persons present at the solemn ceremony. In close proximity to that great natural wonder, the Falls of Niagara, and in one of the loveliest spots of this Province, rest the mortal remains of our deceased brother.—Spring with her blossoms and her flowers will many times return to gladden the earth, and to scatter with lavish hand her treasures o'er his tomb; the mighty Falls in their stupendous majesty will for ages yet to come, roll on unchanging and unceasing, ever sounding forth a solemn requiem for the honored dead. But the time will come—and the wisest and best amongst us know not how

soon—when even these shall pass away, for the trumpet shall sound, and he and all of us will again awake to another, and I trust, a brighter and more enduring existence. Let this thought be to us a consolation under every affliction, a support under every trial, and may we all so live as to insure our ultimate admission into the communion of the perfect, where our Supreme Grand Master for ever lives, and for ever reigns.

The spontaneous gathering of the Craft on the occasion referred to proves to the world how Masons love one another, and whether Masonry is regarded as an institution founded on love to God and love to man; or in the abstract, as a mere system of morality illustrated by symbols and veiled in allegory, but teaching its disciples by these means the beauty of virtue, the value of knowledge, the love of truth, strict justice and universal charity; or whether it is looked upon as an institution founded for the sole purpose of spreading and encouraging a more general spirit of philanthropy, and a more intimate union of friendship, combining the benevolence of the one with the tenderness of the other, it must ever command the respect of the wise and good, not only for the purity of its principles, but also for the soundness of its teachings, and *we* as Masons must ever cherish it in our hearts, as an institution worthy of our warmest love and veneration.

Were this a fitting time or suitable place, it would be an easy and pleasing task for me to illustrate by many bright examples, the importance and value of Masonry, but you, my Brethren, are already too well acquainted with its value to require any further incitements to induce you to persevere with steadiness and fidelity in promulgating, both by precept and example, the great principles inculcated and laid down upon our Masonic trestleboard.

One brilliant and conspicuous example, comparatively of recent date, of that genuine philanthropy which we are enjoined to cultivate, and which was strikingly exhibited by a distinguished Brother, whose untimely death plunged a nation in tears, and sent a pang of grief to every feeling heart in Christendom, I cannot forbear alluding to.

Who, within the limits of civilization, has not heard of, and lamented the sad fate of our illustrious brother Sir John Franklin? And who, is there, among the millions of the earth, who has not longed to tear aside the impenetrable veil, which for years past has shrouded, and will I fear for ever conceal, the fate of our lost brother? Among the many dauntless spirits who dared the dangers of the Arctic Seas, in the vain hope of affording him relief, or at least, of ascertaining his fate, there is none more entitled to the gratitude of the world, and the love and admiration of the craft, than the late Dr. Kane! in humble dependence upon Almighty God, with a mind thoroughly imbued with scientific and useful

knowledge, with a heart overflowing with every noble and generous impulse, and with our venerated emblems the Square and Compass waving from the mast of his gallant little vessel "The Advance," he left the land of his birth and of his affections, he left the comforts and attachments of his home, to look for his Masonic Brother among some of the most terribly magnificent scenes of nature, to look for the lost one, amid the desolate seas and ice bound shores of the polar region! Who that has followed his perilous course through the trials and dangers of that eventful voyage, so truthfully described in his published journal, can avoid coming to the conclusion, that in addition to his sense of public duty, he was mainly impelled, by those very feelings and principles, which it is the great aim and object of Masonry to cultivate and cherish in the hearts of her children; his love for Masonry and his obedience to its precepts was proved by his conduct and shown by his acts, and we can readily imagine and sympathize with the feelings which must have thrilled his heart, when, as he says, "on the highest northern land, not only of America, but of our globe, we planted the star spangled banner of our country, and side by side with it, our Masonic emblem of the Compass and Square."

Who can read without emotion the graphic description which he has left on record, of his fearful journey in search of his perishing companions, his hair-breadth escapes, his nobly endured sufferings? And whose heart does not thrill with sympathy, as he reads the description of how, "when he, fainting and worn out with fatigue, and himself tottering on the very verge of death, at length, amid the ice and snow of that most dreary and desolate region, discovered a small American flag, fluttering from a hammock, and lower down, a little Masonic banner, hanging from a tent pole, hardly visible above the drift." That Commander and these men, were bound together by a cord which death alone could sever! Our distinguished brother, although failing in the main object of his journey, yet added much to geographical and scientific knowledge. He, with many of his companions, returned in safety to his country, but alas for him! the seeds of disease, consequent upon his past sufferings and exposure, were then lurking in his system, the fiat had gone forth, and he sunk in submission to the gavel of death! He will long live however in the hearts and affections of his brethren and countrymen, and his name will stand emblazoned on the roll of those illustrious individuals, who by their virtues and their talents have shed a halo of glory and brightness around our Masonic temple!

Among the many matters connected with the practical working of the craft, which have been submitted to me for my opinion and

decision during the past year, there are two, which I deem of sufficient importance to allude to on this occasion.

Objections had been raised by some highly esteemed brethren to the introduction of certain forms and phrases into our ritual, which conflicted with their religious belief and opinions ; it is unnecessary for me here to particularize either the forms or phrases to which the brethren objected ; but I feel it to be my duty distinctly to declare, that in my opinion these brethren had good grounds for their complaint ; for as I understand Masonry—it is a Society to which men of all religions, moving within the pale of civilized society, who acknowledge the moral laws which bind the human family in the preservation of the social compact, and who admit a belief in the superintendence of a Deity over the universe which he has created, may be admitted and enrolled as members of its mystic fraternity ; or, as it has been well defined by a distinguished brother, when he said :—"Free Masonry is an institution which welcomes equally to its bosom, the Jew and the Gentile, the Christian and Mahomedan, requiring from each only a just sense of moral rectitude and conscientious obligation." If these definitions are correct, and I firmly believe them to be so, then the objections raised by the brethren referred to, are sustained, and the practice complained of, is pronounced an innovation and an excrescence on the body of Masonry, which can neither be sanctioned, nor permitted.

The other point, and it is one to which I shall very briefly allude, is regarding the extent of the Rights and Privileges of "Entered Apprentices." This subject is one which, at the time it was brought specially before me, occasioned me a good deal of thought, and induced much anxious investigation.

I am free to admit that the decision I arrived at, was exactly the reverse of what I had previously supposed to be correct. My views upon this interesting subject, will be found at length in the September number of the *Pioneer*, page 30, to which I beg leave to refer you. My conclusions on the matter, I have reason to believe, have not satisfied the minds of certain members of the fraternity for whose opinions I entertain the highest respect, and in whose knowledge of Masonic law I have much confidence. I have therefore thought it right and proper to introduce the subject to you now, in order that you may, if you think proper to do so, take the subject into your consideration, for although possessing *for the time*, supreme authority over the craft, and feeling bound to govern according to the best of my judgment and ability, I, by no means arrogate to myself the possession of superior wisdom ; but I have at all times endeavored to decide these, and all other questions submitted to me, in strict accordance with my sacred obligations. I will only add that my opinions remain unchanged,

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and these, I am pleased to say, have been sustained and approved of by the leading Masonic minds of the United States.

Shortly after the last meeting of this Grand Lodge, it was discovered that the time of your Grand Secretary was so much occupied by the pressing nature of his private business, that unless an assistant was provided, the interests of the Grand Lodge would be most seriously affected. I therefore assumed the responsibility of authorizing the Committee to engage a competent person to assist in the office, at a salary not to exceed £75 per annum. As you are all aware, brother R. Bull was induced to devote a large portion of his time to this duty, and it affords me much pleasure to be able to say, that since his appointment, the business of the office has been attended to and performed very much to my satisfaction, and to the general benefit of the craft.

The onerous and important duties devolving upon a Grand Secretary can only be performed with efficiency by one who devotes to it his whole time and attention, I would therefore suggest for your consideration the propriety of appropriating such a sum of money, by way of salary, as will secure the services of a competent brother in this important office—in our present circumstances we are not in a position to pay large salaries, but in my opinion the allowance should not be less than £150 per annum.

I would further state that the duties devolving upon your Grand Registrar during the past year, have also been exceedingly arduous, and these duties, as well as many others not strictly connected with his department, have been performed by brother Harris, in the most efficient and energetic manner, at no little sacrifice, both of time and money. I would therefore suggest for your consideration the propriety of making such an appropriation, as you may think advisable, to cover the disbursements and expenses of that office for the past year.

I would also suggest that the Grand Secretary be authorized to subscribe for such of the leading Masonic publications of the day, as may be approved of by the Committee, "on the condition of Masonry," for the use of the Grand Lodge.

The attention of a portion of the craft during the past year has been directed to a careful revision of the 'Book of Constitutions'; in a work of this magnitude, it is not unlikely that errors and omissions may have occurred, it is therefore important that these should be corrected and supplied, previous to the issue of a new edition. This subject will doubtless be brought under your notice during the present session, by some of those brethren who have investigated it.

At the last meeting of this Grand Lodge a Committee was appointed with power to examine and report upon the work of our various subordinate Lodges, with a view to secure a uniform

system in the Province. Important reasons have hitherto prevented me from calling this Committee together, not the least of which was the hope of a speedy union among all the members of the fraternity in this Province—as I felt that a measure of this importance could be more satisfactorily and permanently determined *after* than *before* this desirable event. I trust, however, the subject will not be lost sight of, but that an early day may be appointed for taking the subject into serious consideration.

During the past year I have granted dispensations for opening ten new Lodges in various parts of this jurisdiction; the names and localities of these lodges will be communicated to you by the Grand Secretary, and it will be for you to determine whether or not warrants shall be issued to them.

Although frequently applied to, I have granted no dispensations for conferring degrees in a shorter time than that specified by the Constitution. I have no sympathy with those individuals, who, having lived for years within the sound of the gavel, without availing themselves of the opportunities afforded them, suddenly find it desirable (in order to advance their own interests) to become members of our fraternity.

The time appointed by the constitution for the election of officers to serve during the ensuing year having now arrived, it will afford me much pleasure again to resign my gavel into your hands. In doing so, I reflect with unmingled pleasure and satisfaction upon the many gratifying incidents, which have taken place during the period in which I have been intrusted with the administration of your affairs. I congratulate you, brethren, upon the high standing attained by your Grand Lodge as well as on the prosperous condition of the craft generally. These pleasurable feelings, however, I must admit, are somewhat tinged with regret, when I consider that I am still unable to announce from this place that a more perfect union of the craft in this Province has taken place. This has ever been the most anxious wish of my heart, and the leading aim and object of all my efforts. I trust, however, that this pleasing duty may soon devolve upon my successor, and that he will, ere long, be in a position to convey to us the gratifying intelligence that every Mason in this Province acknowledges allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Canada. Union is essential to Masonry, it is the very *key stone* of our arch, and should ever be eagerly sought for, and carefully preserved when found, by every true craftsman. Such a union as I contemplate, and ardently long for, may be accomplished without sacrifice of principle on either side, if both parties are only really and truly actuated by a sincere love and regard for masonry, and by a spirit of forbearance and brotherly love.

Actuated by these feelings, on the 22nd of June last, I endeavored to express them in an unofficial letter written by me to

Bro. Richardson, the Grand Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, (a copy of which will be laid upon the table) and I have great pleasure in announcing to you that at a meeting held by that body at Toronto on the 30th of the same month, after rescinding certain resolutions affecting the intercourse between them and other Canadian Lodges, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted, and an official copy forwarded to me.

Copy of Resolutions adopted at a half-yearly meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, holden at Toronto, on Tuesday, the 30th day of June, 1857 :—

Resolved—“That the interests of Masonry require that perfect unity of the craft should be restored and maintained throughout the Province.”

“That this Provincial Grand Lodge being actuated by the spirit of the foregoing resolution, and accepting an intimation of an anxious desire on the part of the members of the Grand Lodge of Canada for an union with those composing the Provincial Grand Lodge, with a view to the restoration of perfect unity amongst Freemasons in Canada.

Resolved—“That the Committee appointed on the 23rd October 1856, be re-appointed, with power to take such measures as they may consider necessary and expedient to effect such unity, and to meet any Committee appointed for a like purpose by the Grand Lodge of Canada, and with them to negotiate preliminary terms on which such re-union may be accomplished and consolidated, reporting at the next meeting of this Grand Lodge.”

I now commend this important matter to your most serious consideration, nothing doubting but that your action thereon will have a tendency to increase the Masonic feeling, evinced by our brethren of the Provincial G. L. in these resolutions, and ensure a speedy and happy union of the whole Canadian craft.

Before concluding this address, I cannot refrain from remarking, that the many flattering requests which have been addressed to me by brethren hailing from our various Lodges, that I would consent again to fill the Chair, (in the event of an alteration being made in that section of the Constitution which limits the term of office, and in the event of my re-election,) have been most gratifying to me, as affording satisfactory proof, that I had succeeded in the attainment of that, which has ever been my most cherished wish and ambition—I mean the good opinion and respect of the fraternity. There are reasons, however, which induce me most respectfully to decline this proffered mark of your kindness. To fill the office of Grand Master is an object of ambition, which no brother need feel ashamed of entertaining, and I feel both pride and pleasure in saying, that we have many in our ranks that will do honor to the station.

My professional business claims a large portion of my attention, and I have frequently had occasion to regret, that I was unable to devote more time to my Masonic duties. Another reason which I might adduce for your consideration, is that it is important that there should be a past Grand Master; for if death during the past year had summoned me from "time to eternity" you would have been compelled again to trespass upon the kindness of our American brethren to supply a properly qualified installing officer. Other reasons might be brought forward, but these I trust will prove sufficient to direct your thoughts to the important duty of selecting the future Grand Master. And now brethren, to conclude this long, and I fear tedious address. I would express in the language of a learned brother, my fervent wish and earnest prayer, that whenever or wherever you are assembled as Masons, you may meet in *unity*, work in *love*, and part in *harmony*. May *fidelity* watch your door, *faith* prompt your duties, *hope* animate your labours and *charity* diffuse your bounty. May *wisdom* and *virtue* ever distinguish you, so that Masonry may become glorious in all the earth.

WM. M. WILSON,
Grand Master.

[After delivering the Address, the M. W. the Grand Master was pleased to lay before Grand Lodge, copies of various Addresses which had been presented to him, with his replies thereto. These documents, with a copy of a letter to Bro. Richardson, will be found in the appendix.]

It was moved by W. Br. H. B. Bull, seconded by W. Br. T. Wilson, and unanimously adopted,

That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration the Address of the M. W. G. M., and that R. W. Bros. Bernard, Simpson, Stephens, Tully and Bellhouse, be the said Committee, and to report to-morrow.

R. W. Bro. Stephens gave notice that he would to-morrow move, That the next annual communication of the Grand Lodge be held at Toronto.

R. W. Bro. Bernard, gave notice that he would to-morrow move, That the D. G. M. and D. D. G. M's. be a Committee to confer with the Committee appointed by the P. G. Lodge.

R. W. Br. Stephens, gave notice that he would to-morrow move, That M. W. Bro. P. C. Tucker, of the Grand Lodge of Vermont, be an honorary member of this Grand Lodge, with the rank of Past Grand Master.

The Grand Secretary read a communication he had received from S. Winchester, Esq., New York, and it was ordered by the M. W. G. M. to be laid on the table.

The Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment to meet at 10 o'clock A. M. to-morrow,

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The Grand Lodge resumed its sitting, July 9th, at 11 o'clock A. M., the M. W. Grand Master on the Throne.

V. W. Bro. Crouse, in accordance with notice of motion given the previous day, read the amendments to the Constitution as proposed by Norfolk Lodge, No. 5, and W. Br. Wilkes, those of Brant Lodge, No. 22.

It was moved by R. W. Br. Dr. Lundy, and seconded by V. W. Bro. Crouse and adopted.

That the amendments to the Constitution proposed by Brant and Norfolk Lodges, be referred to the Committee on Constitutions, and to report this afternoon.

W. Br. Taylor gave notice that he would to-morrow move, That Sec. 7. p. 25, L. E., under the head of Grand Master, be amended, striking out all after the words Grand Officers, and adding, he may suspend such Grand officer, and appoint a competent Br. to discharge the duties of the officer so suspended, reporting the same to the Grand Lodge at the next regular communication.

The Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment, to meet at 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Grand Lodge resumed its sitting at 3.30, P. M., the M. W. Grand Master on the Throne.

The special Committee on Grievances brought in the following

REPORT.

The special Committee appointed to consider and report on the charges made by Union Lodge No. 4, against Br. Ira S. Bushe, and James Marvin Fairwell, and also by St. John's Lodge No. 14, against Br. J. W. Kermott, beg leave to report that they have examined the several charges preferred, and having taken the evidence adduced into consideration, Your Committee are of opinion that the charges have been fully sustained, and therefore recommend that the said Ira S. Bushe, James Marvin Fairwell and J. W. Kermott, be expelled from all the privileges and benefits of our ancient Order, by this Grand Lodge for unmasonic conduct.

(Signed)

H. B. BULL,	} Committee.
C. MAGILL,	
W. C. STEPHENS.	

It was moved by R. W. Br. Bellhouse, and seconded by R. W. Br. Harris, and unanimously resolved,

That the Report of the Special Committee on Grievance be received and adopted.

R. W. Br. Stephens gave notice, that he would to-morrow move That if the Brethren of the Lodge of Social and Military Virtues shall desire it, that Lodge shall henceforth be called the Lodge of Antiquity, wear Gold instead of Silver Jewels, and take precedence of all numbered Lodges.

R. W. Br. Bellhouse gave notice that he would to-morrow move for an Act of Incorporation to enable the Grand Lodge to hold real estate, &c. &c.

The Committee on the M. W. Grand Master's Address, read the following

REPORT.

The Committee to whom was referred the address of the M. W. Grand Master, beg leave to Report—

That the perusal of the address of the G. M. has given the Committee much gratification, at the flourishing state of Masonry in the Province, as evinced therein, and your Committee regret that the time at their disposal is too limited to allow of their going at that length into the various subjects it contains, to which their importance entitles them. A notice of motion is now before Grand Lodge, for consideration to-day, with regard to the place at which the next annual Communication is to be held. Your Committee fully concur in the beneficial effects that must arise from the distribution of the meetings of Grand Lodge throughout the Province. Your Committee fully appreciate the great advantage the craft derived from the important Masonic publications referred to by the Grand Master, and would strongly recommend them to the attention of the Brethren generally, and of these especially the Masonic "Pioneer", published in our own jurisdiction, which your Committee are of opinion is entitled to, and should receive, the strongest possible support from all the Lodges in the Province. Various subjects have been under the consideration of the Craft during the past year, with regard to the constitution, bye laws, regulations and working of the order,

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which are of such grave importance that, in the anticipation of a Union being shortly established between all the Masons in the Province, your Committee recommends Grand Lodge to take no action upon them at the present Communication, beyond those recommended by the Committee on Constitution for consideration, which may be deemed of urgent importance. The Union would, in all probability, involve the necessity of such a revision of the Constitution as would necessitate a re-print, and that would be a more fitting time for the consideration of any other suggested amendment.

Your Committee heartily approve of the course taken by the M. W. Grand Master, in the appointment of our experienced R. W. Br. R. Bull to assist the Grand Secretary, in the discharge of his duties during the past few months, which the pressure of his private business prevented him attending to ; and the Committee concur in the suggestion of the M. W. G. M. that the services of a competent Brother to fill that important office should be secured, and as a compensation for the time and attention which these duties would require, your Committee are of opinion that the allowance proposed by the G. M. of £150 per annum is the smallest sum they could offer, but the greatest amount Grand Lodge is at present in a position to afford. Your Committee as warmly concur in the recommendation of your Grand Master that an amount should be placed at the disposal of the Grand Registrar, to cover the disbursements and expenses of that office for the past year. The highly creditable manner in which the arduous and important duties of that office have been discharged by our R. W. Bro. T. B. Harris, are too well known to need comment. Your Committee would suggest that £50, would be an appropriate amount.

Your Committee are much gratified at receiving the resolutions passed at the last meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge for Canada West, being indicative of an unanimous wish of those Brethren who have not yet acknowledged the supremacy of this Grand Lodge, to promote unity amongst the Brethren. Your Committee recommend that a communication be forwarded to the Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge stating, that it has always been the anxious wish of this Grand Lodge to promote

perfect unity in the Craft, and in order to accomplish this object, it is desirable that a perfect understanding should exist between the Provincial Grand Lodges and Provincial Grand Masters throughout the Province and this Grand Lodge, with respect to the proposed basis of Union. Your Committee also recommend, that a Committee of seven be appointed, to take such measures as they may consider necessary and expedient to effect such unity; and to meet the Committee appointed for a like purpose by the Provincial Grand Lodge for Canada West, and any other Committee appointed by the Provincial Grand Masters for Canada East, and with them to negotiate preliminary terms on which such an Union may be accomplished and consolidated, reporting to a special meeting of this Grand Lodge to be called for the purpose. Your Committee feel that they but echo the sentiments generally expressed by the brethren in congratulating the Grand Lodge on the faithful, judicious, and considerate manner in which the M. W. G. M. has fulfilled the duties of his office during the past two years, and doubtless to his exertions much of the present success and encouraging prospects of the Grand Lodge, are due.

(Signed.)

A. BERNARD,

Chairman.

On motion it was resolved, That the report just now read be received.

In accordance with notice of motion given yesterday, it was moved by R. W. Br. A. Bernard, seconded by R. W. Br. Thos. B. Harris, resolved, and unanimously adopted—

That in consideration of the high Masonic character of M. W. Bro. Philip C. Tucker, Grand Master of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Vermont, and of the eminent services he has rendered to the cause of Masonry, and more especially his masterly vindication of the Canadian Craft in organizing the Grand Lodge of Canada, he be, and is hereby elected, an honorary member of this Grand Lodge, with the rank of Past Grand Master.

In accordance with notice of motion given yesterday, it was moved by R. W. Br. Stephens, seconded by Br. Dr. Duggan, resolved, and unanimously adopted—

That in recollection of the opportune and valuable service rendered to the Grand Lodge of Canada in the hour of our difficulty, by the M. W. Br. H. T. Backus, P. G. M. of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Michigan, in installing the Grand Officers of this Grand Lodge, under Art. 11, Book of Constitution, that the M. W. Br. H. T. Backus, be constituted an Honorary Past Grand Master of this Grand Lodge of Canada, and that the Grand Secretary be hereby directed to communicate this resolution to the M. W. Brother.

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In accordance with notice of motion, it was moved by R. W. Br. Stephens, seconded by R. W. Br. Simpson, and unanimously adopted—

That the next annual communication of this Grand Lodge be held at Toronto, C. W.

V. W. Br. Kivas Tully gave notice, that he would to-morrow move, That the rank of D. D. G. M. in this Grand Lodge be accorded to R. W. Br. Michael Furnell, Provincial Grand Master of North Munster, the Representative of this Grand Lodge, near the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

R. W. Br. Stephens presented and read the following Report from the Committee on Constitutions, &c.

REPORT

Your Committee on Constitutions beg to report, that during the past year they have carefully gone through the Book of Constitutions, with a view of bringing under the consideration of Grand Lodge, any desirable alterations or modifications therein, and having received from several Lodges suggestions for the amendment of various clauses, your Committee would beg to recommend the following alterations for the adoption of Grand Lodge.

B. OF C., SMALL EDITION.—P. 13, S. 6., altered to read—"Should neither of the representative officers of a Lodge attend any communication of Grand Lodge, such Lodge by a vote of the Lodge properly certified by the Worshipful Master and Secretary, and under seal may delegate a Past Master of the Lodge, or in the absence of a Past Master of the Lodge, any other Brother, &c., as printed."

P. 18, S. 23—After "recorded and enforced" as printed, add "such summons being addressed, and either delivered personally or sent by post to the last known place of residence of such Brother, being deemed a proper summons."

P. 19, S. 2—After "to the determination of the Grand Master" as printed, add "where any subject can be satisfactorily decided by taking an open vote, the votes of the members are to be signified &c., as printed, to "counting unnecessary," after which add "but any brother may demand a ballot on any question, either before or after an open vote shall have been taken."

P. 19, S. 6—4th line, for "shall" read "may."

P. 21, S. 7—Should the Grand Master be dissatisfied with the conduct of any of his Grand Officers, he may suspend any such Grand Officer, for any cause that he may deem sufficient, and may appoint other qualified brethren as substitute Grand Officers *pro tem*.

P. 30, S. 7—After “without such authority” add, “a Lodge of emergency for the purpose of attending the funeral of a deceased brother may be called at any time, without the ordinary seven days notice, by the Worshipful Master or, in his absence, by the Senior Warden, or in his absence by the Junior Warden, but not without such authority.” The particular reason, as printed, to the end.

P. 31, S. 11—After “by dispensation” as printed, add “nor until he has been balloted for and approved; nor can a rejected applicant for initiation be balloted for again in the same or any other Lodge within 12 months of the time of such rejection, nor shall a Lodge,” &c., as printed to the end.

P. 33, S. 26—For “may” read “shall.”

P. 39—Foot note—omit.

P. 41, S. 4—For “can” read “shall.”

W. C. STEPHENS,

Chairman.

In accordance with notice of motion given at the last annual communication, it was moved by R. W. Br. Dr. Lundy, seconded by W. Br. S. B. Campbell, and adopted.

That so much of the Constitution as precludes members from belonging to more than one Lodge be expunged, “Article 22, Pocket Edition.”

On motion of R. W. Br. Simpson, in accordance with notice, seconded by R. W. Br. G. L. Allen—

That clause No. 2., page 20 P. E., under the head of Grand Master, be expunged.

It was moved in amendment, by R. W. Br. A. Bernard, seconded by R. W. Br. Thos. B. Harris—

That Clause No. 2, page 20, P. E. be amended, by striking out the word *two* and inserting the word *three*.

The amendment was put and adopted.

R. W. Br. Thos. B. Harris gave notice, that he would to-morrow move a resolution, to the effect, that no alteration shall be made in the Constitution under six months notice given in writing to the

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Grand Secretary, and not to become law, unless supported by two thirds of the votes present.

The M. W. Grand Master announced that the election of Grand Officers would take place early to-morrow.

The Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshment, to meet to-morrow at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The Grand Lodge resumed its sittings on the 10th day of July, 1857, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

The M. W. Grand Master on the Throne.

W. Br. J. Taylor gave notice of motion of alterations to the Constitution, which were afterwards referred to the standing Committee, to report at the next communication of this Grand Lodge.

R. W. Br. A. Bernard gave notice, that he would move, that Sec. 19, p.19, L. E. of the Constitution, relating to the Banquet, be amended, by erasing the word "shall" and inserting the word "may."

R. W. Br. Lundy gave notice, that he would move, that Sec. 19, p. 19 L. E., be expunged.

In accordance with notice given, it was moved by R. W. Br. Harris, seconded by W. Br. Campbell, and adopted—

That after the close of the present communication, no notice shall be entertained for altering or amending the Laws, Rules or Regulations of this Grand Lodge, or for adding a new Law, Rule or Regulation thereto, without notice having been given to the Grand Secretary in writing, stating the amendment proposed, at least six months previous to the annual communication at which it is to be brought before Grand Lodge, and no alteration or addition to the Constitution shall be made binding unless supported by two thirds of the votes present. A copy of all suggested alterations received, shall be transmitted by the Grand Secretary to each Lodge at least three months before the meeting of Grand Lodge.

In accordance with notice, it was moved by V. W. Br. Kivas Tully, seconded by R. W. Br. Bernard, and unanimously adopted,

That the rank of Dis. Deputy Grand Master, be accorded to R. W. Bro. Michael Furnell, Provincial Grand Master of North Munster, the Representative of this Grand Lodge near the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

On motion of R. W. Br. Stephens, seconded by B. Dr. Duggan, it was resolved—

That clause No. 2 of the Regulations of Grand Lodge, be held to mean as it has hitherto been understood, that a Past Master possesses one vote in his own right, whether he represent any Lodge or not.

The M. W. Grand Master nominated V. W. Br. Tully, and W. Br. H. B. Bull as scrutineers, for collecting the ballots for the election of Grand officers.

The Election of Grand Officers for the ensuing Masonic term was proceeded with.

The following were declared duly elected :

By Grand Lodge—

M. W. Br. W. Mercer Wilson, re-elected Grand Master.

R. W. Br. Rev. Joseph Scott, Dep. G. M.

“ “ “ Jas. E. Smith, G. S. W.

“ “ “ Saml. Ross, G. J. W.

“ “ “ The Rev. J. Tremayne, Grand Chaplain.

“ “ “ William Bellhouse, Grand Treasurer.

“ “ “ Willm. H. Miller, Grand Registrar.

“ “ “ Thos. B. Harris, Grand Secretary.

By an open vote of Grand Lodge—

“ Jno. Morrison, Grand Tyler.

The M. W. Grand Master was pleased to confirm the nomination by Lodges of their respective Districts.

R. W. Br. Capt. T. Wilson, D. D. G. M., London District.

“ “ “ Charles Magill, D. D. G. M., Hamilton “

“ “ “ Kivas Tully, D. D. G. M., Toronto “

“ “ “ W. B. Simpson, D. D. G. M., Central “

“ “ “ J. H. Isaacson, D. D. G. M., Montreal “

“ “ “ Elisha Gustin, D. D. G. M. Eastern Townships “

In accordance with notice it was moved by R. W. Br. Bellhouse, seconded by R. W. Br. Bernard, and resolved,

That the Grand Secretary be instructed to give the necessary notice required by Law, previous to the next meeting of the Parliament of Canada, that the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, will apply for an Act of Incorporation to enable it and subordinate Lodges acting under it, to hold real and personal estate in a corporate capacity, for Masonic, charitable, and other purposes required by the Craft, and that the M. W. Grand Master be requested to appoint a Committee to draft a Bill for such purpose to be presented to the Legislature.

The Grand Lodge declined to take any decided action in the matter, but requested that the M. W. Grand Master would obtain the information, if it was really necessary, as to its propriety.

It was moved by R. W. Br. John Osborne, seconded by R. W. Br. B

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That the M. W. Grand Master appoint a Committee to negotiate an union with the Provincial Grand Lodge, and that it be an instruction to that Committee that they entertain no proposition not based on an entire independence of Free Masonry in Canada, nor any implication upon the Constitutionality or correctness of the present position of the Grand Lodge, but that on all other points it is the desire of the Grand Lodge to meet them on a footing best calculated to bring about the union they so much desire.

The M. W. Grand Master was pleased to appoint the following Brethren as officers for the ensuing Masonic term.

V. W. Br. Reginald Henwood, Grand Senior Deacon.

“ “ “ Joseph Walker, Grand Junior Deacon.

“ “ “ F. J. Rastrick, Grand Sup. of Works.

“ “ “ S. B. Campbell, Grand Dir. of Ceremonies.

“ “ “ Dr. H. J. Fowler, Ass. Grand Secretary.

“ “ “ Henry Grist, “ “ Dir. of Ceremonies.

“ “ “ C. R. Wilkes, Grand Sword Bearer.

“ “ “ W. T. Thomas, Grand Organist.

“ “ “ Robt. J. Fowler, Ass. “ Organist.

“ “ “ H. B. Bostwick, Grand Pursuivant.

“ “ “ Wm. Bungey.

“ “ “ Dr. Hy. Crouse,

“ “ “ Jos. A. Fisher,

“ “ “ Thos. Rawlings,

“ “ “ D. Moss,

“ “ “ Wm. Pardy,

“ “ “ S. Browning,

“ “ “ G. H. McCauley,

} Grand Stewards.

The Grand officers for the ensuing year, present, were installed, invested and proclaimed, according to ancient form.

It was moved by R. W. Br. Bernard, seconded by W. Br. Campbell, and unanimously adopted.

That the proceedings of this and previous communications of this Grand Lodge, be published with as little delay as possible, in pamphlet form, and that a copy be sent to each Grand and Past Grand Officer, and to each subordinate Lodge under this jurisdiction, and to the various Grand Bodies throughout the world.

On motion of R. W. Br. Jno. Osborne, seconded by R. W. Br. Bellhouse, it was resolved—

That the proposed amendments as recommended and submitted by the Standing Committee on Constitutions be adopted.

On motion of R. W. Br. Bellhouse, seconded by R. W. Br. Dr. Lundy, it was resolved—

That the various proposed alterations to the Book of Constitutions, notices of which have been given by various Brethren, be referred to the Committee on Constitutions, the Report on which to be brought up at the next annual communication of this Grand Lodge, and in order that all the Lodges acting under this jurisdiction may have the opportunity of expressing their views on the proposed alterations, the Grand Secretary be instructed to send 12 copies of the same to each Lodge, with the request that a full reply be returned with the least possible delay, that the Committee may be possession of the sentiments of all the Lodges.

In accordance with notice given, it was moved by R. W. Br. Stephens, seconded by R. W. Br. Simpson, resolved and unanimously adopted—

That the Lodge of Social and Military Virtues, shall henceforth, be called the Lodge of Antiquity, wear gold instead of silver jewels, and take precedence of all numbered Lodges.

The Standing Committee on Warrants, presented and read the following report—

THE M. W. GRAND LODGE OF CANADA :

Your Committee appointed the last annual communication of this Grand Lodge, beg to

REPORT.

That they have, after due consideration, decided on a design for the certificate to be issued to the members of the Craft, which was submitted to the M. W. Grand Master for his approval, and having commissioned a brother about visiting the Continent of Europe, to make enquiries in England as to the amount that it would cost to be engraved there, and having also consulted the artists of this country, they found that it could be executed here in a manner that would be satisfactory to the Grand Lodge, and at considerably less cost. Your Committee therefore decided upon promoting the industry and enterprise of our own Province, and placed the work in the hands of competent parties in Montreal for execution, and which they were led to believe an impression would have been ready to have been submitted, and even at this late hour they hope to do so before Grand Lodge separates.

Your Committee have also had under consideration the subject of Warrants for newly chartered Lodges, under this jurisdiction, and they would beg to recommend the accompanying form for adoption.

THOS. B. HARRIS,
hairman.

SECOND G. A. COMMUNICATION—MONTREAL, 5857. 189

The proof sheet was laid on the table for inspection.

On motion the Report of the Standing Committee on warrants was received and adopted.

It was moved by W. Br. Chambers, and seconded by W. Br. H. B. Bull—

That the Trustees to be appointed by this Grand Lodge, in regard to the section referring to the sureties of the Treasurer, be the Dis. Dep. Grand Masters for the time being.

The Grand Lodge having completed its labors, was closed in ample form, with solemn prayer.

(Attest.)

THOS. B. HARRIS,
Grand Secretary.

RETURNS
OF
SUBORDINATE LODGES,
RENDERED 24TH JUNE, 5857.

LODGE OF SOCIAL AND MILITARY VIRTUES, No. 1,
MONTREAL, C. E.—NOW THE LODGE OF ANTIQUITY.

Stated Meeting—First Thursday in every Month.

OFFICERS.

V. W. Br. Ed. Morris	W. M.
“ Wm. M. Browne	P. M.
“ Ed. Hollensky	S. W.
“ Wm. Bower	J. W.
“ G. Reindhardt	Treasurer.
“ R. A. Malcolm	Secretary.
Number of members	36.

NIAGARA LODGE, No. 2, NIAGARA, C. W.

Stated Meeting—First Tuesday in every Month.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. Robt. M. Willson	W. M.
“ “ W. G. F. Downes	P. M.
“ Jno. Hemphill	S. W.
“ Rd. Walsh	J. W.
“ Jno. Hall	Secretary.
Number of Members	31.

BARTON LODGE, No. 3, HAMILTON, C. W.

Stated Meeting—the Second Wednesday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

R. W. Br. C. Magill	W. M.
“ “ H. B. Bull	P. M.
“ Hy. Langdon	S. W.
“ Ed. Kelly	J. W.
“ Milton Davis	Treasurer.
“ Wm. Irwin	Secretary.
Number of Members	81.

SECOND G. A. COMMUNICATION—MONTREAL, 5857. 191

UNION LODGE, No. 4, GRIMSBY, C. W.

Stated Meeting—the Thursday on or before Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

R. W. Br. Rev. F. J. Lundy	W. M.
“ “ Jno. W. Lewis	P. M.
“ “ D. C. McMillan	Secretary.
Number of Members	49.

NORFOLK LODGE, No. 5, SIMCOE, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Thursday on or before Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

V. W. Br. Hy. Crouse	W. M.
“ “ Geo. W. Powell	S. W.
“ Hy. Groff	J. W.
“ David Mathews	Treasurer.
“ Jno. McF. Wilson	Secretary.
Number of Members	45.

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

Stated Meeting—Wednesday on or preceding Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. Thomas Camm	W. M.
R. “ “ Samuel Ross	P. M.
“ F. M. Holmes	S. W.
“ David Wylie	J. W.
“ James McElhinney	Treasurer.
“ F. A. Despard	Secretary.
Number of Members	37.

PREVOST LODGE, No. 7, DUNHAM, C. E.

Stated Meeting—Tuesday preceding Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. David Browne	W. M.
“ “ I. C. Butler	P. M.
“ Charles Browne	S. W.
“ C. S. Vincent	J. W.
“ William Baker	Treasurer.
“ Chellis S. Browne	Secretary
Number of Members	26.

GOLDEN RULE LODGE, No. 8, STANSTEAD, C. E.

Stated Meeting—Tuesday on or preceding each Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

V. W.	Br.	H. J. Martin.....	W. M.
"	"	E. B. Gustin.....	P. M.
"	"	W. B. Colby.....	S. W.
"	"	W. C. Copp.....	J. W.
	"	F. Mack.....	Treasurer.
	"	A. D. McFairley.....	Secretary.
Number of Members.....			40.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, No. 9, ST. CATHARINES, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Tuesday on or before Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

W.	Br.	William Poe.....	W. M.
"	"	F. Parsons	P. M.
"	"	Samuel G. Dolson.....	S. W.
"	"	A. Henderson.....	J. W.
"	"	F. Parsons	Treasurer.
"	"	William McGhie.....	Secretary.
Number of Members.....			52.

PRINCE EDWARD'S LODGE, No. 10, PICTON, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Thursday preceding Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

	W. Br. C. Smith	W. M.
V. " "	D. Barker	P. M.
" "	C. W. Andrews	S. W.
" "	James M. Leonmons	J. W.
" "	Wm. Dougall	Treasurer.
" "	Robert Ramsay	Secretary.
Number of Members		25.

NELSON LODGE, No. 11, CLARENCEVILLE, C. E.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE, No. 12, ST. ANDREWS, C. E.

No returns.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, No. 13, MONTREAL, C. E.

Stated Meeting—Third Tuesday of every Month.

R.	W.	Br.	A. Bernard.....	W. M.
"	"	"	P. D. Brown	P. M.
	"	"	J. C. Spence.....	S. W.
	"	"	H. Bulmer.....	J. W.
	"	"	D. Moss	Treasurer.
	"	"	A. A. Stevenson	Secretary.

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ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 14, LONDON, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Second Tuesday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

V. W. Br.	Jas. Moffatt	W. M.
" "	S. P. Ayers	P. M.
" "	John J. MacKenzie	S. W.
" "	William Daniell	J. W.
" "	Thomas Allen	Treasurer.
" " "	A. S. Abbott	Secretary.
Number of Members		94.

ZETLAND LODGE, No. 15, MONTREAL, C. E.

Stated Meeting—Second Thursday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

R. W. Br.	John H. Isaacson	W. M.
" "	John Martin	S. W.
" "	A. Hoffnung	J. W.
" "	E. Moss	Treasurer.
" "	William Reed	Secreta
Number of Members		42.

KING SOLOMON'S LODGE, No. 16, TORONTO, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Second Thursday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

R. W. Br.	W. H. Miller	W. M.
" " "	James E. Smith	P. M.
" "	H. J. Gear	S. W.
" "	John C. Griffith	J. W.
" "	W. C. Morrison	Treasurer.
" "	John Duck	Secretary.
Number of Members		110.

LODGE OF STRICT OBSERVANCE, No. 17, HAMILTON.

Stated Meeting—Third Tuesday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

R. W. Br.	Richard Bull	W. M.
" " "	John Osborne	P. M.
" "	S. G. Patton	S. W.
" "	J. M. Rogerson	J. W.
" "	Richard Benner	Treasurer.
" "	Henry Grist	Secretary.
Number of Members		71.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 18, CAYUGA, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Tuesday before Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

V. W. Br.	John R. Carroll	W. M.
" "	W. M. Mussen	P. M.
" "	T. H. Aikman	S. W.
" "	E. S. Martin	J. W.
" "	Thomas Lester	Treasurer.
" "	Wm. Mussen	Secretary.
Number of Members		15.

THISTLE LODGE, No. 19, AMHERSTBURGH, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Tuesday before Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

V. W. Br.	William Bungey	W. M.
" "	Thomas Salmoni	P. M.
" "	George Gott	S. W.
" "	John Risdale	J. W.
" "	Thomas H. Brush	Treasurer.
" "	H. Middleditch	Secretary.
Number of Members		46.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 20, HAMILTON, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Third Thursday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

W. Br.	W. G. Crawford	W. M.
" "	J. F. McCuaig	P. M.
" "	John Austin	S. W.
" "	D. Mackintosh	J. W.
" "	Alfred Booker	Treasurer.
R. " "	Thomas B. Harris	Secretary.
Number of Members		57.

ST. THOMAS LODGE, No. 21, ST. THOMAS, C. W.

Stated Meeting—First Thursday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

W. Br.	Thomas D. Warren	W. M.
" "	William J. White	P. M.
" "	George Dobson	S. W.
" "	Rev. A. St. Geo. Caulfield	J. W.
" "	Daniel Hanvey	Treasurer.
" "	Samuel A. Ferrin	Secretary.
Number of Members		50.

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BRANT LODGE, No. 22, BRANTFORD, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Tuesday before Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

V. W. Br. R. Henwood	W. M.
" " " C. R. Wilkes	P. M.
" " " M. W. Pruyn	S. W.
" " " F. H. Leonard	J. W.
" " " Henry Yardington	Treasurer.
V. W. " C. R. Wilkes	Secretary.
Number of Members	63.

GREAT WESTERN LODGE, No. 23, WINDSOR, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Thursday on or before Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. George Duncan	W. M.
" " Thomas Perkins	P. M.
" " James Forbes	S. W.
" " Thomas N. Johnson	J. W.
" " William B. Herons	Treasurer.
" " George Gilkes	Secretary.
Number of Members	50.

WELLINGTON LODGE, No. 24, DUNVILLE, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Monday preceding Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. Daniel McSwain	W. M.
" " David McIndoe	P. M.
" " James Scholefield	S. W.
" " Henry Penny	J. W.
" " Samuel Cornick	Treasurer.
" " N. L. Holmes	Secretary.
Number of Members	32.

SHEFFORD LODGE, No. 25, WATERLOO, C. E.

Stated Meeting—First Thursday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. M. Mitchell	W. M.
" " H. L. Robinson	P. M.
" " Benjamin Savage	S. W.
" " George C. Robinson	J. W.
" " Daniel Taylor	Treasurer.
" " J. Robinson	Secretary.
Number of Members	14.

VAUGHAN LODGE, No. 26, MAPLE, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Tuesday on or after Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. James Woods.....	W. M.
“ James Dick	S. W.
“ Robert Moore.....	J. W.
“ Joseph Noble.....	Treasurer.
“ C. H. Sweetapple.....	Secretary.
Number of Members.....	28.

HARMONY LODGE, No. 27, BINBROOK, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Monday after the Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. J. Taylor.....	W. M.
“ John Brown.....	S. W.
“ Reuben C. Taylor	J. W.
“ Hiram Cook	Secretary.
Number of Members	12.

WELLINGTON LODGE, No. 28, STRATFORD, C. W.

Stated Meetings—First and Third Thursday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. Alexander B. Orr	W. M.
“ “ R. H. Lee	P. M.
“ “ Walter Oliver	S. W.
“ E. F. Ryerson.....	J. W.
“ James Woods.....	Treasurer.
“ John E. Lee.....	Secretary.
Number of Members	31.

HOYLE LODGE, No. 29, LACOLLE, C. E.

Stated Meeting—Second Tuesday of each Month.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. Thomas Kemp.....	W. M.
“ Robert Douglass	S. W.
“ Thomas S. Haynes	J. W.
“ Henry Wilson.....	Treasurer.
“ William H. Vanolict.....	Secretary.
Number of Members.....	13.

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ACACIA LODGE, No. 30, HAMILTON, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Third Friday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

R. W. Br.	W. C. Stephens.....	W. M.
"	Thomas Duggan.....	S. W.
"	Thomas B. Harris	J. W.
"	William Bellhouse.....	Treasurer.
"	F. J. Rastrick	Secretary.
Number of Members	20.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE, No. 31, CALEDONIA, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Wednesday on or before Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

W. Br.	William A. Spooner....	W. M.
"	William McPherson	P. M.
"	Joseph Cornick, Jr.	S. W.
"	Zacheus B. Choate.....	J. W.
"	James B. Holden	Treasurer.
"	Joseph B. Choate.....	Secretary.
Number of Members	33.

KILWINNING LODGE, No. 32, LONDON, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Third Thursday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

W. Br.	William Muir.....	W. M.
"	William John Chambers....	P. M.
"	D. McDonald.....	S. W.
"	D. McInnes	J. W.
"	R. C. Macfie.....	Treasurer.
"	John Harrison	Secretary.
Number of Members	42.

REHOBAM LODGE, No. 33, TORONTO, C. W.

Stated Meeting—First Thursday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

W. Br.	Edward R. O'Brien.....	W. M.
R. W. "	George L. Allen	P. M.
"	William Henry Parry....	S. W.
"	George P. Lawder.....	J. W.
"	John Maughan	Treasurer.
"	James R. Boyd	Secretary.
Number of Members	34.

JACQUES CARTIER LODGE, No. 34, MONTREAL, C. E.

Stated Meeting—Third Thursday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

V. W. Br. John W. Haldimand.....	W. M.
“ Leander Franchere.....	S. W.
“ Radolphe Laflamme.....	J. W.
“ James Phillips.....	Secretary.
Number of Members	22.

ST. FRANCIS LODGE, No. 35, MELBOURNE, C. E.

Stated Meeting—First Thursday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

V.W. Br. W. H. Fowler.....	W. M.
“ George H. Napier	S. W.
“ W. Atkins	J. W.
“ W. C. Tait	Treasurer.
“ Stephen B. Dean.. ..	Secretary.
Number of Members.....	29.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, NO. 36, INGERSOLL, C. W.

Stated Meeting—First Thursday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. John Galliford.....	W. M.
“ “ John Patterson	S. W.
“ John Furseman	J. W.
“ C. Parkhurst.....	Treasurer.
“ William J. McKenzie.....	Secretary.
Number of Members.....	28.

KING LODGE, No. 37, KING, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Friday on or before Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. J. A. Fisher.....	W. M.
“ “ James Bowman	P. M.
“ “ Isaac Smelsor.....	S. W.
“ William Watson.....	J. W.
“ Isaac Dennis.....	Treasurer.
“ Alexander McPhee.....	Secretary.
Number of Members.....	18.

SECOND G. A. COMMUNICATION—MONTREAL, 5857. 199

VICTORIA LODGE, No. 38, SHERBROOKE, C. E.

Stated Meeting—Second Monday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. H. T. Maclin	W. M.
“ J. S. Walton	P. M.
“ A. P. Ball	S. W.
“ G. C. Goss	J. W.
“ “ J. S. Walton	Treasurer.
“ R. L. Harvey	Secretary.
Number of Members	27.

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ALMA LODGE, No. 39, GALT, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Second Tuesday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. Norman Booth	W. M.
“ “ Hiran Fulford	P. M.
“ “ Æmelius Irving	S. W.
“ Louis William Dessauer ..	J. W.
“ John Davidson	Treasurer.
“ A. T. H. Ball	Secretary.
Number of Members	33.

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ST. JAMES' LODGE, No. 40, MAITLAND, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Monday on or nearest Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. George C. Longley	W. M.
“ William Garvey	S. W.
“ John Morey	J. W.
Number of Members	12.

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KING HIRAM LODGE, No. 41, TILLSONBURG, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Last Wednesday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. Thomas Hardy	W. M.
“ John M. Ault	S. W.
“ “ William Andrews	J. W.
“ Roger Olmstead	Treasurer.
“ Allan McLean	Secretary.
Number of Members	18.

ALBION LODGE, No. 42, NEWBURY, C. W.

Stated Meeting—First Tuesday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. Daniel Graves	W. M.
“ George Clarke	J. W.
“ Amos A. Wright	J. W.
“ George B. Secord	Treasurer.
“ A. W. Gamble	Secretary.
Number of Members	8.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 43, DELAWARE, C. W.

Stated Meeting—First Tuesday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. John Dutton	W. M.
“ Thomas Cole Waring	S. W.
“ Andrew Heyward	J. W.
“ Charles S. Harris	Treasurer.
“ Calvin J. Ladd	Secretary.
Number of Members	11.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE No. 44, PARIS, C. W.

Stated Meeting—First Tuesday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. William Henry Oliver	W. M.
“ Horace Capron	S. W.
“ Daniel M. Lamb	J. W.
Number of Members	10.

BEAVER LODGE, No. 45, STRATHROY, C. W.

Stated Meeting—First Friday after the Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. George Masson	W. M.
“ Thomas S. Russell	S. W.
“ James Murray	J. W.
Number of Members	11.

CLINTON LODGE, No. 46, CLINTON, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Wednesday on or after the Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. Samuel H. Rance	W. M.
“ Henry J. Middaugh	S. W.
“ Alexander M. Macmillan ..	J. W.
Number of Members	8.

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RISING SUN LODGE, No. 47, FARMERSVILLE, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Thursday nearest the Full Moon.

OFFICERS.

W. Br. Florence McCarthy.....	W. M.
“ Seneca Westburn	S. W.
“ John Kincaid	J. W.
Number of Members.....	10.

WILSON LODGE, No. 48, TORONTO, C. W.

Stated Meeting—Third Tuesday of every Month.

OFFICERS.

R. W. Br. Kivas Tully	W. M.
V. “ “ S. B. Campbell	S. W.
“ H. B. Bostwick	J. W.
Number of Members.....	9.

ST. JAMES' LODGE, U. D., ST. MARY'S, C. W. •

OFFICERS.

W. Br. W. T. O'Reilly.....	W. M.
“ Leon M. Clench.....	Secretary.
Number of Members.....	14.

A P P E N D I X .

PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GRAND LODGE, *Held at Brantford, on the 14th day of October, 1856.*

PRESENT.

M. W. Br. WILLIAM M. WILSON, Grand Master,
On the Throne.

- R. " " The Rev. Dr. LUNDY, as D. G. M.
- " " " RICHARD BULL, as Grand Senior Warden.
- " " " C. R. WILKES, as Grand Junior Warden.
- " " " The Revd. St. GEO. CAULFIELD, Grand Chaplain.
- V. " " HENRY CROUSE, as Grand Secretary.
- " " " F. J. RASTRICK, Grand Superintendent of Works.
- " " " W. T. THOMAS, Grand Organist.
- " " " GEO. W. POWELL, Ass. Grand Dir. of Ceremonies.
- " " " E. HEATHFIELD, as Grand Pursuivant.
- " " " JOHN MORRISON, Grand Tyler.

The Constitutional number of Lodges being represented, the Grand Lodge was opened in ample form with solemn prayer.

The representatives and members of the following Lodges were announced, and requested to take their seats in Grand Lodge.

BRANT LODGE, NO. 22, G. R. C.

W. Br. C. R. Wilkes, W. M. ; R. Henwood, P. M. ; Curtis, P. M. ; Mallock, S. W. ; Pruyn, J. W. ; Cheeseman, Secretary ; Yardington Treasurer ; Rawlings, D. of C. ; Brs. Waterous, Scott, Skinner, Walker, J. Yardington, Buckwell, Merrigold, McKerlie, Hardy, Racey, W. K. Kirby, Walkenshaw, Trip, Gilkison, Leonard, Snoud, A. Kerby, Whitehead, Waring, Marlett, Boden, J. C. Davis, Orr, J. H. Rawlings, H. Davis, Duncan.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, NO. 14, G. R. C.

Br. E. Heathfield.

HARMONY LODGE, NO. 27, G. R. C.

W. Br. J. Taylor, W. M.

BARTON LODGE, NO. 3, G. R. C.

Brs. J. Austin ; J. McIntyre ; T. Rolston.

STRICT OBSERVANCE, NO. 17, G. R. C.

Br. Henry Grist.

APPENDIX.

ii.

ALMA LODGE, NO. 37, G. R. C.

Brs. H. Fulford, Thomas Foxley, Otto Klotz.

UNION LODGE, NO. 4, G. R. C.

Brs. Geo. Masson, I. S. Bushe.

NORFOLK LODGE, NO. 5, G. R. C.

Brs. F. Jones, Geo. Jackson, Walsh, Groff, Barber, Merrill,
Haycock, Bastlemade.

ST. ANDREW'S LODGE, NO. 31, G. R. C.

Brs. J. Cornick, Waltham, Holden, G. Johnson.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, NO. 18, G. R. C.

Br. Parkerton.

WELLINGTON LODGE, NO. 28, G. R. C.

Brs. Higgs and Ryerson.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, NO. 20, G. R. C.

Br. W. T. Thomas.

VISITING BRETHREN FROM

CONSECON LODGE, G. R. E.

Br. J. Podfield.

RICHMOND HILL LODGE, G. R. E.

Br. Ed. Hopkinson.

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, G. R. E.

Brs. Dutton and E. Heathfield.

ST. DUTHUS LODGE, TAIN, SCOTLAND.

Br. Arthur Harvey.

The M. W. Grand Master informed the Brethren that they were assembled, pursuant to a circular issued, for the purpose of laying the Foundation Stone of an Episcopal Church in the Town of Brantford.

The Brethren repaired to the site of the Church, and the ceremonies were duly performed by the M. W. Grand Master.

The Brethren re-assembled, and returned to the Lodge Room.

The Grand Lodge was closed in ample form with solemn prayer.

GRAND LODGES OF THE UNITED STATES,

With the date of their organization, the place of meeting of the Convention, and the number of Lodges represented therein.

	State.	When Organized.	Where Convention held.	No. Lodges represented.
1	Massachusetts	April 30th, 1733	Boston	
2	Pennsylvania	June 20th, 1764	Philadelphia	
3	North Carolina	January 14th, . . 1771	New bern	
4	Virginia	May 6th, 1777	Williamsburg	5
5	New York	September 5th, 1781	New York City	
6	Georgia	December 16th, 1786		
7	New Jersey	December 18th, 1786	New Brunswick	
8	South Carolina	March 24th, . . 1787	Charleston	
9	Maryland	April 17th, . . . 1787	Baltimore	
10	Connecticut	July 8th, 1789		15
11	New Hampshire	July 8th, 1789	Portsmouth	
12	Rhode Island	June 25th, . . . 1791	Providence	2
13	Vermont	October 14th, . . 1794	Rutland	
14	Tennessee	October 14th, . . 1704		
15	Kentucky	October 13th, . . 1800	Lexington	
16	Ohio	January 7th, . . . 1806	Chillicotte	
17	Delaware	June 6th, 1806	Wilmington	
18	District of Columbia	December 11th, 1811		
19	Louisiana	July 11th, 1812	New Orleans	5
20	Indiana	January 12th, . . 1818		
21	Mississippi	July 27th, 1818		
22	Maine	June 1st, 1820		
23	Missouri	April 21st, . . . 1821	St. Louis	3
24	Alabama	June 14th, 1821		
25	Michigan	June 28th, 1826		
26	Florida	July 5th, 1830		
27	Arkansas	February 22nd, 1832		
28	Texas	December —, . . 1837		
29	Illinois	April 6th, 1840	Jacksonville	5
30	Wisconsin	December 18th, 1842		
31	Iowa	January 8th, . . . 1844	Iowa City	4
32	California	April 17th, 1850	San Francisco	
33	Oregon	August 16th, . . 1851	Oregon City	3
34	Minnesota	February 23rd, 1853	St. Paul	3
35	Canada	October 10th, . . 1855	Hamilton	41
36	Kansas	March 17th, . . . 1856	Leavenworth	3

NOTE.—It is desirable that the several Grand Secretaries republish the above Table, with the blanks opposite their respective Grand Lodges properly filled.—Gr. SEC.

During the Railway celebration and in order to extend a fraternal welcome to the Masons who had accepted the hospitalities of the city of Toronto, on the occasion, King Solomon's Lodge, in a true Masonic spirit, invited the visiting brethren to spend an evening at their elegantly decorated Hall on Church street, in anticipation of the festival of St. John the Evangelist. The M. W. G. M. Bro. W. M. Wilson, of Simcoe, being present on the occasion, the following address was presented, and replied to by him.

ADDRESS.

To M. W. Br. William Mercer Wilson, G. M.

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Worshipful Masters and Brethren,

On behalf of the officers and members of this Lodge, and by command of the W. M., I bid you a cordial and fraternal welcome.

The occasion which has induced you to visit this city, is a subject of much congratulation to us all, as we are all met to celebrate the completion of another link of the great Railway chain which is intended to bind the eastern and western portions of this Province more closely together, and develop the resources of each to their mutual advantage.

As Masons, we cannot but rejoice that the completion of this link has more closely united us with our brethren of the "Far West" in the United States. May the iron bond which now unites both countries, be always indicative of the fraternal union which subsists between us; and may it always tend to the advancement of our Order, the development of Masonic principles, and the welfare of the craft.

To yourself individually, Most Worshipful Grand Master, the officers and members of King Solomon's Lodge desire to extend the right hand of fellowship. As one of the foremost Lodges who have fought for independence, we feel proud of having the first opportunity of publicly acknowledging you as our Grand Master, an honor to which you are not only entitled on account of your zeal for the attainment of the great objects which we all have in view, but also on account of your private worth, and your personal acquaintance with the practical working of the secrets of our Order, which should always be the test for advancement to the honors which the craft can bestow. Individually and collectively, we congratulate you on having attained the honorable distinction which we thus publicly acknowledge; and may the Most High give you the wisdom to guide us to a successful and honorable termination of the struggle in which we are at present engaged, and which we cannot but feel certain, will further the great object which all masons have in view, the diffusion of Masonic knowledge and the benefit of freemasonry.

To all visiting brethren King Solomon's Lodge extends a free, hearty, cordial and Masonic welcome, both on this and all future occasions.

FRED. C. CAPREOL,

Master of Ceremonies.

Toronto, December 19th, A. L., 5855.

REPLY.

Worshipful Brethren and Brethren of King Solomon's Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Toronto.

I thank you most heartily for your cordial and fraternal welcome.

Permit me to assure you that it affords me extreme pleasure thus to meet the officers and brethren of a Lodge already so distinguished, not only for Masonic knowledge, but also for that zeal in disseminating the

true principles of our Order, which always characterizes the members of a Lodge in whose minds the divine precepts of masonry have taken firm root.

The opening of the Hamilton and Toronto Railway, which the citizens of Toronto have thus made the occasion of displaying the most liberal hospitalities, and which becomes the cause of so many members of the craft from distant parts being at present congregated in this city, is an event of the utmost importance to us all, not only in a commercial but also in a social point of view.

While this new link in the chain of Railway communication will have an undoubted tendency materially to increase the prosperity of this important city, it will also, as you have happily remarked, exert a beneficial influence on the craft at large, inasmuch as it will unite in still closer communion the scattered members of our Mystic Fraternity.

In thanking you, Brethren, for your kind expressions of congratulation, on my elevation to the distinguished position I now occupy, I must not forget to tender to you and to the craft at large my heartfelt felicitations at the successful issue in which our attempt to form a Canadian Grand Lodge has resulted.

I rejoice with you, Brethren, that the long anticipated day has, at length arrived, when Free Masonry is enabled to assume its proper position in this noble Province.

Cherish it, I beseech you, as an institution admirably adapted to further the moral and social interests of all who heartily embrace it. Revere it, as teaching us to *know ourselves*, and inculcating by beautiful symbols, our duty to God and Man.

And may the Great Architect of the Universe impress us all with the solemn truth, that,—whatever our difficulties in the arduous path of duty, whatever the gainsayings of those who, as yet, are not of *us*—our noble cause will be best promoted by a faithful reliance on Him, and a firm adherence to the Holy precept,—“In all things, Charity.”

WM. M. WILSON,
G. M.

The Dedication of the new Masonic Hall, leased by the members of St. Thomas Lodge, formerly Lodge No. 232, G. R. I., now G. R. Canada, took place in this town on Wednesday evening 23rd January last. Each member was allowed three tickets so that the friends and acquaintances of all might have an opportunity of witnessing the ceremony. After the opening of the Lodge, visitors were admitted, and we were pleased to see such a numerous assemblage. When all were seated, the W. M., T. D. Warren, Esq., introduced the M. W. G. M. Bro. Col. W. M. Wilson, and the Grand Officers of the G. L. of Canada, to the officers and brethren, and conducted the G. M. to the East, when Bro. Charles Roe, J. W. read the following address on behalf of the Lodge:

To the M. W. Bro. Col. Wm. Mercer Wilson, Grand Master of Masons in Canada.

M. W. SIR AND BROTHER,—

It is with feelings of the greatest pleasure, that we, this evening, hail, welcome, and congratulate you on this, your first appearance amongst us, and we do so with greater delight, when we recognize in you our first Grand Master, the object of whose present visit is, to dedicate

and consecrate our new Lodge Room ; the reason of such dedication being our great prosperity, and rapidly increasing numbers which render it absolutely necessary that we should have greater space in which to transact our business.

When this Lodge was first opened in June, 1852, it only numbered eight, its chartered members ; now, after a lapse of three years, number upwards of fifty ; notwithstanding the many difficulties which we have had to contend, public opinion having been most decidedly adverse to the establishment of Free Masonry in St. Thomas ; but nevertheless, the Lodge went on, gradually strengthening in numbers, respectability and influence so much so, that at present, even the appearance of opposition and dislike has altogether vanished from the public mind. This success we do not attribute to our own management, but to the grand principles of Free Masonry, which if carried out in their true spirit, must prosper in any community.

It is unnecessary for us to refer to the great benefits that must arise to the craft in this Province by the establishment of a Grand Lodge of Canada, free to act in all cases where a movement is necessary for the good of the Order in any particular locality, thus doing away with the necessity of sending to Great Britain ; where delay, and in some instances, almost total neglect of the application has been the consequence. Still, however much we may be satisfied with the attainment of that for which we have long wished, we cannot but feel a certain regret at our severance from the parent Lodge, and we shall always have that proper respect for, and attachment to her interests, which should ever be the case, considering our universal bond of brotherhood.

Allow us again, Most Worshipful Sir and Brother, to express our gratification and happiness at your appearance here this evening, an event, we are certain that will long be remembered by each of us with the most kind and brotherly feelings, and hoping to have the pleasure at an early day of again welcoming you, we are, Most Worshipful Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

T. D. WARREN,

W. M.

On behalf of the members of St. Thomas Lodge.

St. Thomas, January 23, 1856.

To which the Grand Master was pleased to make the following reply :

WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BRETHREN—

I thank you most heartily for your kind and fraternal welcome. I congratulate you, brethren, upon the auspicious event which has this day brought us together, as it affords a pleasing proof of the present prosperity of our Order in this rapidly increasing town. I regret to observe that in the course of your zealous efforts to advance the interests of Free Masonry in this place, that you have had to contend against public opinion, but permit me to remind you brethren, that the remedy is in your own hands. Let your exemplary conduct, your zeal in the support and defence of the civil and religious liberties of your country, your steady and unwearied efforts to promote harmony and good will among your fellowmen, command that respect for our time-honoured institution to which it is entitled ; by pursuing this course,

“ You'll dissipate each dark and threatening cloud,
That prejudice and calumny can raise.
By radiant probity of heart and life,
And persevering deeds of love and peace.”

For rest assured, that while we evince in *practice* those principles we profess in *theory*, our beloved institution will "have a good report of all men." I cordially unite with you, brethren, in your expression of warm attachment, and of respect and veneration for the Grand Lodges of Great Britain, and I trust that nothing will ever occur to mar the harmony which has so long existed between the Masons of this Province, and their brethren on the other side of the Atlantic. The establishment of a Grand Lodge, in a Province nearly three times larger than Great Britain, in which no Grand Lodge claimed exclusive jurisdiction, should neither excite anger, nor incur reproach; on the contrary, it must, in my opinion, have a tendency to remove many of the difficulties under which the fraternity have so long labored, and will eventually be the means of ensuring a still warmer feeling of fraternal regard towards those august bodies to which we have so long looked up, as the fountains of Masonic learning and virtue, and from whom we will ever proudly assert our descent.

WM. M. WILSON,
G. M.

St. Thomas, 23rd January, 1856.

The following address, was presented to Col. Wm. M. Wilson, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, on the occasion of his visit to Brant Lodge, in January last, and his reply thereto.

To WM. MERCER WILSON, Esq., *Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons, of the Province of Canada.*

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR:—

We, the Master, Wardens, and Brethren of Brant Lodge, working under a dispensation of the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Canada, beg most respectfully and fraternally to greet you, and to express our high appreciation of the honor conferred upon us by this official visit; and feeling satisfied that the great changes that have recently taken place—which we believe to be highly beneficial to the Craft in this country—will be firmly maintained for the future prosperity of our fraternity, who in showing their wisdom in effecting these changes, have manifested their sagacity perhaps in a greater degree in selecting yourself, Most Worshipful Sir, to guide, instruct, and control the energies of the Craft in this Province.

It is unnecessary for us to mention to you, Most Worshipful Sir, the many necessities which demand the erection of a Grand Lodge in Canada; but there is one benefit which we, doubtless, shall derive from it, and to which we look forward with great interest; it is that of uniformity of working in all Lodges which will so much enhance our happiness as well as our usefulness, and which we trust, will soon be diffused through all the Lodges in this country, under the able instruction of our Grand Lodge, whose officers are so eminently qualified to promote so important an object.

Furthermore, Most Worshipful Sir, permit us to express a hope that no effort will be wanting to induce those Lodges, which have not already done so, to give in their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Canada, thereby cementing our Masonic Temple into one compact whole, securing that strength so much required to withstand the attacks of the ignorant and malicious.

In conclusion, accept, Most Worshipful Sir, this testimony of our high esteem, and our prayers to the Supreme Architect of the Universe, to watch over and protect you, and to continue to shower on you the blessings of His light and wisdom.

Dated at Brantford, this 25th day of January, A. L. 5856.

D. CURTIS, Jr., W. M.
J. SKINNER, S. W.
GEO. W. MALLOCH, J. W.

T. CHESMAN, Secretary.

REPLY.

WORSHIPFUL SIR & BRETHREN—

For your kind and fraternal address I most sincerely thank you.

It affords me extreme pleasure thus to meet the Brethren of Brant Lodge, many of whom I have long known and esteemed both as men and Masons.

The formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and the circumstances connected with that event, will ever be considered as the most important epoch in the Masonic history of this Province; the necessity of that movement none can dispute, and the beneficial effects which must flow from the establishment of a Canadian Grand Lodge will, I trust, soon be apparent to the Masonic world.

Among the many important matters which have come under the consideration of your Grand Officers, there is none which has received more careful attention and consideration, than the subject to which you specially allude in your address, a uniformity of working in all the Lodges hailing from our Grand Lodge is of the first importance, and I indulge in the hope that this object of your wishes will ere long be attained.

I observe with pleasure, Brethren, the truly Masonic spirit expressed in your Address, with reference to those members of our mystic fraternity, who have not as yet recognized our Grand Lodge, or affiliated with us; and I most cordially and sincerely unite with you in the hope, that the day is not far distant when every Mason in Canada will acknowledge but one supreme Masonic authority, and the only strife, or rather emulation existing among them will be, "who can best work, and best agree."

I remark with pleasure, and congratulate you, Brethren, upon the evidences of prosperity everywhere displayed in this rapidly improving and beautifully situated town, and entertain no doubt, but that when your great Railway schemes are more fully developed, Brantford will assume that position to which her natural advantages, entitle her; and in connection with this, I also warmly congratulate you upon the prosperous condition in which I find your Lodge, and most sincerely do I hope that you, both collectively and individually, may continue to flourish, your union to strengthen, and your happiness to abound.

For the highly complimentary remarks contained in your address, and directed to me personally, I thank you. The distinguished position to which the favourable opinion of the members of the Craft in this Province has raised me, brought with it great responsibility, and many important duties; prompted by an ardent love for the *Royal Art*—actuated by a firm determination to exert to the utmost my humble abilities, in order to perfect and secure the great object we all have in view, and in humble dependence also upon the assistance of the G. A. O. T. U., I accepted the office of Grand Master, and trust to be enabled to discharge the duties connected with it, with credit and advantage to the Craft at large.

WM. M. WILSON,

Brantford, 25th January, A. L. 5856.

G. M.

The Brethren of the Eastern Section of the Province, hailing from the Grand Lodge of Canada, have been gratified by a recent visit from the M. W. the Grand Master, Bro. W. M. Wilson. That illustrious Bro. arrived at Montreal on Wednesday the 17th Sept. 1856. On the following evening a Special meeting of Zetland Lodge was called to receive the G. M., at which the members of the other Lodges were invited to attend. The Lodge-room was much crowded on the occasion. R. W. Bro. P. D. Brown, D. D. G. M. for the District of Montreal, presented Bro. Willson with the following Address :—

Col. Wm. Mercer Wilson, Grand Master of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada.

MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BROTHER,—

The Masons of Montreal, in connection with Lodges under your jurisdiction, have done me the honor of entrusting to me the pleasing duty of extending to you a cordial welcome to our City and Lodges on the occasion of this your first official visit.

We heartily congratulate you upon having been placed at the head of that body of Masons in this Province, which will ever stand a monument of the zeal and honest enterprize of the many genuine craftsmen in Canada and, at the same time consider the fraternity exceedingly fortunate in having selected one whose official career thus far has proved him to be so eminently qualified to occupy that high and honorable position.

The harmony and prosperity which prevail throughout the craft under your jurisdiction, as well as the general favor with which the Grand Lodge of Canada is regarded throughout the Masonic world, are in a great measure attributable to the zeal, the indomitable perseverance, and the truly masonic character of your administration, and are to us sources of just pride and of great pleasure.

On behalf of the brethren of Montreal, I tender to you a most sincere and hearty welcome to our city, our Lodges, our homes, and our hearts.—May you long live to confer upon the craft the benefits of your distinguished talents and assiduous labours, and to enjoy the honors you have so justly earned.

I have the honor to be.

Yours fraternally,

P. D. BROWN,

District D. G. M.

Montreal, September 18, 1856.

REPLY.

To P. D. Brown, Esq., District Deputy Grand Master, Montreal.

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL SIR AND BROTHER—

I have much pleasure in conveying through you to the Masons of Montreal my sincere thanks for the kind and fraternal welcome with which they have received me, on this my first visit to their important and rapidly improving city.

The members of the craft in this Province, have, indeed, much reason to congratulate themselves upon the result of their unwearied efforts in the sacred cause of masonry—that apathy and indifference (the natural consequence of insufficient and careless masonic legislation) which, for so many years, has characterized the Canadian members of our mystic fraternity, has now given place to a deep and lively interest in masonic affairs, and has also secured the general and zealous co-operation of the fraternity.

The many gratifying recognitions which the Grand Lodge of Canada has already received from her sister Grand Lodges, affords conclusive evidence, (if such were wanting) not only that our position is correct, but that our course also has been *masonic*. I regret, however, to remark, that there are still a number of our brethren, who, as yet, do not unite with us in our earnest endeavours to promote what we conceive to be the interests of masonry, I look forward, however, with pleasing anticipations to the period when the whole craft of this noble Province, will be united under the broad banner of our Grand Lodge, and the only strife, or rather emulation existing amongst us, will be—who shall best work and best agree. In order to arrive at this consummation of our ardent wishes, we must never omit to evince, both by our conversation and by our practice, that we are in reality guided by those great principles which form the very basis and bond of our union, those great cardinal virtues—*Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth*.

For the kind and highly flattering remarks contained in your Address, having special reference to my personal services, I thank you; my most anxious wish has ever been to see our Grand Lodge maintain with dignity, and discharge with efficiency, the important duties of her high position, and should my humble services contribute in the slightest degree to that great end, I will be abundantly repaid for all my exertions, by the feeling that I have honestly and faithfully discharged the onerous duties entrusted to me by the craft, and that I have by these means secured, what I value most highly, the approbation of my brethren.

May the G. A. O. T. U. bless your labours abundantly, may your Lodges continue to flourish, your union to strengthen, and your happiness to abound.

WM. M. WILSON,

Montreal, September 18, 1856.

G. M.

—

M. W. Brother Wilson, Grand Master, accompanied by Brother Bernard, D. G. M., and Bro. Browning, of the Ottawa Hotel, Montreal, visited Golden Rule Lodge, Stanstead, C. E., on the 22nd Sept. 1856. Notwithstanding the unfavorable state of the weather, the attendance was large and highly respectable, and the proceedings extremely interesting. The reception of the Grand Officers by the brethren of Stanstead, was most cordial, and the work exhibited in the first degree very correct and impressive. Our highly esteemed and venerated Brother Gustin, the charter-master of the lodge—under whose fostering care it has existed nearly half a century—delivered to the G. M., and the D. G. M., the following address:

Most Worshipful Grand Master and Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master.

It is with unusual diffidence that I attempt to express to you the lively emotions and peculiar sensations which inspire the breasts of the officers and brethren of Golden Rule Lodge on this new and interesting occasion.

New, as being the first instance, since the organization of this lodge in 1814, a period of forty-two years or more, that its hall has been honored by the presence of any officer of the Grand Lodge under which it was holden, and but seldom favored with familiar and fraternal written communications exceeding the ordinary requirements of regular returns and prompt payment of dues.

Interesting as, inspiring high hopes and fond anticipations, and, at the

same time,affording assurances that we are now attached to an independent head, whose guardian care, and paternal solicitude for the prosperity and well-being of its subordinates are by this visit ostensibly manifested. To behold the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada, after devoting time and treasure in travelling south and west, securing friendly relations, for the benefit of the craft in Canada; and like masters of ancient days, "in pursuit of a more perfect mode of work." Here, to-day, we meet him in the east, some eight hundred miles from home, with his faithful coadjutor, the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, solely for the purpose of visiting and inspecting the work of a poor, humble, unpretending lodge of freemasons; who, after struggling through long years of adversity, its means exhausted by the continual exorbitant demands of the former Grand Lodge, has little to offer in return except the pure incense of devoted hearts. To us this kind and unmerited attention of our Grand Officers seems auspicious of better days, and proclaims in unmistakeable terms that a new era has dawned upon the history of masonry in Canada.

To the uninitiated these zealous labors of distinguished and eminent men, declare emphatically that freemasonry is something more than a mere nominal institution; that it is not wholly confined to the individual benefit of its members, but is wisely calculated to exert a salutary influence throughout the different departments of civilized life—the expansion of intellect, refinement of taste, improvement of morals, cultivation of the social virtues, alleviation of distress, drying the widows tears, and succouring the helpless orphans, being among its legitimate objects.

Notwithstanding this is the first personal visit with which Golden Rule Lodge has been honored, yet she has been favored with many friendly epistolary communications from the Right Worshipful D. G. Master, and has witnessed with satisfaction his planting the germs of masonry around our borders, which under his fostering care we hope and trust will soon produce fruits demonstrating the vitality of the order.

We fear that in your extensive circuit throughout the province you will involuntarily arrive at the conclusion, that, while masonry has achieved much, an extensive field is still open, requiring its active and energetic operations; and while you find many things to cheer and induce patience and perseverance, you will on the other hand meet with frequent obstruction rendering your path rugged and your sojourning wearisome; you will undoubtedly "find the mason in temple, in many instances defiled by the the lips of the profane, uttering the sacred name of deity without reverence or respect!!! While from its walls you will perceive, now and then, a loose stone projecting from its sides indicating an untimely downfall; and even our ground floor or mosaic pavement on which we tread, in many parts, exhibits a soiled surface; and sorry I am to say, even *alcoholic stains*; while the rage of party politics, religious dissensions, and bitter sectarian animosities threaten an invasion of the most holy place.

Under your wise and skilful guidance it is the work of masonry to restore its primitive order and beauty; to thoroughly cleanse the sanctuary; cast out and purify, till every lodge under your extensive jurisdiction can proudly chant—

"Hail mysterious, glorious science,
That to discord bids defiance,
Harmony alone reigns here.
Let us sing to him who raised us,
From the rugged paths that 'mazed us,
To the light that we revere."

We are not insensible of the arduous task and high responsibilities devolving on you as head of the craft in Canada, still we trust your course

will be upward and onward ; and we shall consider ourselves fortunate if, in our humble sphere with our limited means, we can become co-workers with you in elevating the character of freemasonry in this Province, to a high and prominent standing, securing it an extension and rendering it a lasting and perpetual blessing, to be transmitted as such to succeeding and remote generations.

To you Most Worshipful and R. W. Sirs, is intrusted the accomplishment of this grand design. And, as Solomon, King of Israel, and Hiram, King of Tyre, by their united wisdom and masterly skill, erected that superb model of excellence which immortalized their names—so may your united labor on the mystic temple—prosecuted with energetic zeal, and impressively enforced both by precept and example prove equally successful.—May you long live to behold it in a finished state, reflecting from its gilded sides, in brilliant beams the pure rays, profusely shed, of the great lights of masonry ; while numerous Masonic Halls reverberate with the loud laudatory commendations of your amiable, distinguished, and exemplary course. And finally, having faithfully wrought out for ourselves a crown of glory, bearing the pious inscription of “Holiness to the Lord,” while your virtues shall still live on perpetual record,—may your venerated names descend to posterity like the “rich perfumes of sweet smelling savor.”

The reply of the Grand Officers was very warmly received. After the Lodge had been closed in due and ancient form, the Brethren repaired with their guests to the Hotel of Bro Winn—where an excellent supper awaited them—to which “ample justice was done.” At low twelve the Brethren separated, having spent a most delightful evening from which we trust “profit and pleasure were the mutual result.”

(Copy of a Letter referred to in the Grand Master's Address.)

SIMCOE, 22nd June, 1857.

DEAR BRO. RICHARDSON—

I am much pleased to learn that your Provincial G. L. will meet at Toronto on the 30th inst., and that some decided step will then be taken, on the important question of self-government. I most sincerely hope, that the Brethren on that occasion, will be actuated by no other feeling, than *a desire for the good of the Craft.*

Union is essential to Masonry, and I trust that many days will not be allowed to pass away, before we can present to the Masonic world a phalanx of united brethren. Our Grand Lodge will meet at Montreal on the 8th proximo, and I need scarcely say how delighted I would be, to meet you and every member of your Grand Lodge on that occasion ; you have many men of sterling ability and sound masonic knowledge among you, whose services are required, and whose talents are wanted to assist in building our great Masonic Temple in this Province. For my own part, I shall never rest satisfied until every good Mason in Canada is united under one banner ; and I am happy in the belief that these sentiments are becoming more general, and that the members of the craft, almost universally, are now desirous of forgetting the past, and of becoming more united for the future. Waiting with much anxiety the result of your meeting, but relying upon the triumph of sound Masonic principles.

I continue,

Dear Bro. Richardson,

Very truly and fraternally yours
WM. M. WILSON

P. S.—I had just finished my short letter to you, when the April and May numbers of the "London Free Mason's Magazine" arrived, and although I had previously heard the result of the March meeting, yet, I was glad to have an opportunity of reading an account of the proceedings in extenso. You must of course perceive that the Grand Lodge of England, has reached their utmost limit, in the way of concessions to the Canadian Craft, and I much mistake the character of the Brethren if they will rest satisfied with the extorted boons which are now so tardily proffered for their acceptance. As to the G. L. of England authorizing the formation of a Grand Lodge in Canada, or even promising to recognize one when established—the hope may be at once abandoned. No principle in Masonry is better understood or more generally received than this—that a Grand Lodge cannot create a Grand Lodge—the proposition is too evident to require argument. *I do hope, therefore*, (and God knows the sincerity of my wishes in this matter) that the Brethren generally, will unite with us in our honest endeavours to establish Masonry in Canada on that basis, and in that position, to which it is justly entitled. *We* have taken the initiative in the matter, and after overcoming many difficulties, we have at length succeeded in placing the Grand Lodge of Canada, in such a position before the Masonic world, that I think every Canadian Mason, should feel an honest pride in being enrolled under her banner. An union of the whole Craft would at once settle and decide the matter, with those Grand Lodges who still delay their recognition, and I honestly believe that England would not be the last to do so.

You may have observed in the printed proceedings of our last Grand Lodge meeting, that a Committee, consisting of the D. D. G. M's. and others had been appointed by me to examine and report upon the "work" of the various Lodges under our jurisdiction, with a view to the adoption of an uniform system; I have hitherto delayed calling the members of the Committee together, indulging in the hope, that an Union was at hand, and that a matter of such grave importance would be more satisfactorily settled *after* than *before* this desirable event. It appears to me, (and I write you thus frankly, because I believe that both you and our much esteemed Bro. Ridout, are actuated by motives similar to my own) that no delay should now take place in declaring the intentions of the Provincial Grand Lodge; many difficulties, at present latent and perhaps unforeseen but which might eventually spring up, would by speedy action, be obviated and much useless argument, and possible unpleasantness, avoided.

The division which has taken place amongst us, has made no change in the friendly feelings I have ever entertained towards those Brethren, with whom I was so long and happily associated, and all I request from them is, that they will give me, and those with whom I act, credit for the same honesty and integrity of purpose, they claim for themselves—a claim which I cheerfully concede to them.

Again I have much pleasure in subscribing myself,

As very sincerely yours,

WM. M. WILSON.

(Copy of the Address referred to in the Report of Committee of Correspondence at page 81.)

A D D R E S S
OF
The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons,
OF CANADA,
TO THE
United Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England.

To the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, the Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Officers, and Brethren of the United Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England.

WE, the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Officers and Brethren, of the Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada,
With sincere respect and fraternal regard,

SEND GREETING,

The Freemasons of Canada, to the number of forty-one Lodges, having united in the establishment of a Grand Lodge of Canada (as you have doubtless already been informed,) we feel it our first duty to lay before you, as the parent to whom the majority of our members owe their Masonic existence, a full explanation of the circumstances which dictated, and the course we pursued in taking, a step, which, while it determines the rule of the Grand Lodge of England over us, as Lodges, we confidently believe will not sever, and we earnestly trust will not weaken, that Holy Bond of Brotherhood so long existing between us, as Masons.

In offering these explanations, we feel assured, by the purity of the motives by which we were actuated, and the justness of our cause, that we shall not ask from you in vain, that generous, and truly Masonic consideration which has ever distinguished the Grand Lodge of England.

The absence in this Province of that progress in our Masonic Art which has invariably attended the existence of duly constituted Lodges in every other country, had long been a source of unfeigned sorrow to all zealous Canadian Free Masons, who observed with deep regret that the advancement of the order was by no means commensurate with the rapid improvement which marked every other branch of the social and political economy of this noble Province.

The principal influences which retarded the progress of Masonry in Canada cannot be better described than by the following extracts from a circular, on the subject, issued by the Lodge of Strict Observance, No. 833, R. E., of the City of Hamilton, in the Month of September last.

Adverting to the alleged grievances suffered by the craft it is there stated:—

“The first and most important is, the diversity of interests and the want of harmony in action and in working, resulting from the growth in the Province, of Lodges hailing from the Grand Lodges of different

Countries, thus perpetuating local and national feelings and prejudices, and conflicting interests, and consequent estrangement of affection, amongst the brethren of an Order that knows no country and is confined to no race.

"The second is, the manifest injustice of Lodges in this Province being required, out of their limited means, to contribute to the accumulated funds of the Grand Lodge of England, in addition to having to support a Provincial Grand Lodge—and especially as the great proportion of claims for Masonic assistance that are daily and hourly occurring in this Province, are made by brethren emigrating from the Mother Country, whilst instances of Masons leaving this for England, in a position to require such relief are rare if they ever occur at all. The Grand Lodge of England thus doubly tax the Fraternity here by transferring to these shores numberless claimants for Masonic benevolence, at the same time that they are receiving from us a portion of our means of affording that assistance.

"The third is, the inconvenience arising from the lengthened periods that must elapse, in consequence of the distance between us and the Grand Lodge of England, before we can receive replies to our communications, sanction to our proceedings, warrants, certificates of membership, &c., even in cases of emergency, and instances have often occurred of Brethren being deprived of the privileges of the Craft, by leaving for foreign countries before the arrival of their certificates—for which, it must be borne in mind, they had paid previously to their initiation. This disadvantage is unavoidable even were the correspondence and remittances of our Lodges promptly acknowledged and complied with, but which, unhappily, is far from being the case; important communications having frequently remained without reply for months, and in some cases for years, greatly to the inconvenience of the Fraternity here, and notwithstanding that complaints of such neglect have been repeatedly represented to the Grand Lodge of England through the regular channel of communication, and also by resolutions of the Provincial Grand Lodge through the Grand Registrar of England, they have as yet received no attention nor redress—a neglect highly discourteous towards the Masons of Canada, and seriously injurious to the general interests of the Craft.

"The last, but in our estimation, by no means the least of the alleged grievances, is the appointment of our Provincial Grand Master by the Grand Master of England, which virtually leaves the appointment in the hands of the Masons of England—who, at a distance of near 4000 miles, may reasonably be expected to be practically ignorant of the social position and requirements of the Craft in Canada—and inasmuch as the Provincial Grand Officers are nominated by the Provincial Grand Master, the efficiency or inefficiency of the administration of our affairs depends entirely upon the eligible or ineligible selection of a Provincial Grand Master made for us by the Grand Master of England—and this selection is made without reference to the opinions of the Fraternity in Canada, as to the Masonic attainments, zeal or interest in the Craft, and general qualifications of the nominee, although they would naturally be the best informed on the subject, and most deeply interested in the result.

"The Provincial Grand Lodge, thus constituted, is placed in the equivocal position of being irresponsible to, and independent of the Craft in Canada, whilst experience has shown that body to be unable to secure from the Grand Lodge of England the attention and respect due to their position as a Provincial Grand Lodge."

The sentiments contained in the foregoing extracts were participated in by the whole of the Masonic Fraternity, with scarcely an individual exception; nor were such feelings and convictions of recent formation, the necessity of establishing a Canadian Grand Lodge, having for many years occupied the serious consideration of the Brethren; but hailing as

they did from different Grand Lodges, and distributed as they were over a Province extending in length 1,600 miles, and in breadth averaging over 220 miles, being three times as large as Great Britain and Ireland—the means of communication, too, being very imperfect—they had but few opportunities of meeting together, and much time, therefore, elapsed before any action was taken in the matter.

The first important step occurred at a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Upper Canada, held in October, A. L., 5852, when, after expressing the highest respect and esteem for their parent Grand Lodge of England, a Resolution was unanimously passed, to the effect That it is absolutely necessary for the welfare of Masonry in the Province that an independent Grand Lodge should be established, having full power to control the working and operations of the Craft in this quarter of the globe, and that all funds accruing from the same should be retained by the said Grand Lodge, to meet the urgent necessities of the Craft in the Province.

In May, A. L., 5853, the same Grand body (the Provincial Grand Lodge), adopted and forwarded a Petition to the Grand Lodge of England, which, after briefly narrating the Masonic history of Western Canada, from the year 5792, and stating—That the advancement of Masonry had been of a less cheering nature than the progress of Canada in population, intelligence and wealth, had warranted them in anticipating, and that their funds were drained by the constant demands from indigent brethren, emigrants from Great Britain and Ireland, until they were unable to carry out the great charitable objects of the Institution—prayed that they might be allowed to retain all fees arising from the working of the Craft, and also that the various Lodges under their jurisdiction might be permitted to elect their own Provincial Grand Master—at the same time expressing the belief that if the prayer of their petition were granted, and the Grand Lodge of England would exert its influence to induce the other Grand Lodges of Great Britain not to issue any more warrants to Lodges in Canada, that ere long the whole Craft in the Province would be united in one harmonious body.

These Petitions and Resolutions having elicited no reply from the Grand Lodge of England, resolutions were passed at subsequent meetings of the Provincial Grand Lodge, directing that application be made to the Grand Lodge of England, first through the Grand Secretary—the regular channel of communication—and afterwards through the Grand Registrar, respectfully calling attention to the petitions, and begging that they might be favored with consideration and some reply. These applications appear to have been alike unavailing in procuring from the Grand Lodge of England any consideration of the claims of the Masons of Canada, for at a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge on the 19th July last, it was officially announced that no reply had been received from the Grand Lodge of England to any of these communications.

Finding that the interests of the Craft in the Province were suffering with increased severity from the causes of which they had complained—feeling deeply the uncourteous neglect the petitions and correspondence of the Provincial Grand Lodge had experienced from the Officers of the Grand Lodge of England—and believing the Provincial Grand Lodge to be incapable of obtaining from the Grand Lodge those concessions which the position of the Craft rendered indispensable—a very large majority of the members of the Provincial Grand Lodge were desirous of calling a meeting of all the Canadian Lodges, for the purpose of deciding on and adopting the correct constitutional course for securing that relief which the circumstances of their case demanded.

Several resolutions having that object in view were proposed, but the Right Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master (presiding) ruled them

out of order, and refused to submit them to the meeting, adjourning the Provincial Grand Lodge until the next day.

In consequence of the refusal of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master to take the opinion of the Lodge on any of the resolutions proposed, a numerous meeting of members of the Provincial Grand Lodge, including several Provincial Grand Officers, was held after the adjournment of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and after considering the unsatisfactory position and prospects of the Craft, and despairing of ever obtaining redress of their grievances through the intervention of the Provincial Grand Lodge, a resolution was unanimously passed, calling a meeting of Delegates from all Canadian Lodges to be held in the City of Hamilton, on the 10th of October, to consider the expediency of establishing a Grand Lodge of Canada.

In conformity with that resolution, and in pursuance of a summons issued to all the Lodges in Canada, the representatives of forty-one Lodges, hailing from the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland, assembled at the Masonic Hall in the City of Hamilton, on the 10th of October, A. L., 5855.

Very Worshipful Brother the Rev. F. J. Lundy, D. C. L., Provincial Grand Chaplain of Upper Canada, and Worshipful Master of the Union Lodge, Grimsby, No. 494, R. E., was called upon to officiate as Chaplain during the session of the Convention.

The Convention having been inaugurated by solemn prayer,

Very Worshipful Brother C. Magill, Past Junior Grand Warden of Upper Canada, and Worshipful Master of the Barton Lodge, Hamilton, No. 733, R. E., and Mayor of the City, was called upon to preside, and

Very Worshipful Brother T. B. Harris, Past Master of St. John's Lodge Hamilton, No. 231, R. I., was requested to act as Secretary.

On the recommendation of a Committee appointed for the purpose, the rules and regulations for conducting public business, contained in the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of England, were, *mutatis mutandis*, unanimously adopted for the government of the Convention.

The objects for which the convention was called were introduced with explanatory observations by the Chairman, who invited the Brethren present to express their views on the subject before the meeting freely and at length.

The Convention was addressed by many of the Brethren, and the several points of alleged grievance were very fully considered and discussed.

In the course of the debate it was urged, that, however willing the Grand Lodge of England might be to concede all the points embraced in the petitions of the Provincial Grand Lodge, the serious inconvenience arising from the distance (near 4,000 miles) between Great Britain and this Province, could not thus be avoided, whilst the establishment of a Grand Lodge of Canada, in addition to remedying that inconvenience, would unite as one family the fraternity of the Province, identify the interests, and assimilate the working of the various lodges, at present belonging to three distinct jurisdictions, and establish harmony throughout the Craft.

It was further urged that having a Grand Lodge in the Province would afford the Lodges a convenience of communication which would greatly facilitate the business of the Craft—that the amount of dues that would be saved by having but one Grand Lodge to support would materially increase their benevolent resources—and that a Grand Lodge, with officers annually elective by the Masons of Canada, would secure due attention to the interests of the Fraternity, and elevate Freemasonry in Canada to a position of prosperity, influence, and utility, under any other circumstances far beyond its capabilities.

It was also urged that amongst the numerous and intelligent body of Masons in the Province, the requisite talent and devotion to the welfare of the Craft may at all times be found, to conduct an efficient administration of the affairs of Freemasonry in Canada, and that the necessities of the Fraternity require that they should assume a position of self-government.

The feeling of the Convention being manifestly so strongly in favor of the establishment of an independent Grand Lodge, a Committee, composed of those Brethren whose Masonic knowledge and general ability had distinguished them as the best qualified for the faithful and efficient performance of so important a duty, was appointed to investigate all available Masonic authorities for precedents applicable to the peculiar circumstances of the case. The result of their researches was a recommendation for the immediate formation of a Grand Lodge of Canada. This recommendation, with the full and explanatory report of the Committee, having received from the brethren that calm and grave consideration which the serious importance of the subject demanded, it was felt that, however painful it might be to them thus to sever the link which had so long bound them to their parent Grand Lodges of Great Britain and Ireland, and sincerely as they felt, and readily acknowledged, the duty they owed to those parent Grand Lodges, they felt that they owed a still higher duty to Freemasonry, whose best interests were at stake, and whose prosperous existence in the Province imperatively required that immediate separation.

It was thereon solemnly resolved—

THAT in order to apply a remedy to these evils,—to form perfect fraternal union, and harmony, establish order, ensure tranquillity, provide for and promote the general welfare of the Craft, and secure to the Fraternity of Canada all the blessings of Masonic privileges; it is expedient, right, and our bounden duty to form a Grand Lodge of Canada.

It was then on motion unanimously resolved,

That the Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, be and is hereby formed upon the Antient Charges and Constitution of Masonry.

A Committee was then appointed to prepare rules and regulations for the government of the Grand Lodge of Canada; and a temporary code having been submitted and approved, the Grand Lodge proceeded to the election of Grand Master and Grand Officers. V. W. Bro. W. M. Wilson, Past Grand Senior Warden of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Upper Canada and W. M. of Norfolk Lodge, Simcoe, C. W., No. 500, R. E., was elected Grand Master, and V. W. Bro. A. Bernard, Past Grand Junior Deacon of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Montreal and William Henry, Lower Canada, and W. M. of St. George's Lodge, Montreal, C. E., No. 643, R. E., was elected Deputy Grand Master, and Brethren of acknowledged Masonic ability, were elected and appointed Grand Officers.

Committees were then appointed to conduct the general business of the Grand Lodge, and the Convention was adjourned with solemn prayer—its deliberations having occupied three days.

The requisite arrangements having previously been made, on the 2d of November, the Grand Lodge was duly consecrated, and the Grand Master elect regularly installed, in due and ancient form, by the Most Worshipful the Honorable H. T. Backus, P. G. M. of the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of the State of Michigan, assisted by other brethren of eminence and distinction in the Craft.

The Grand Lodge of Canada was thus regularly formed and inaugurated, in the name of the Great Architect of the Universe, in conformity with the custom which has prevailed in the establishment of Grand Lodges, and we confidently believe that the circumstances which called it into

existence were as much stronger, as the number of Lodges by whom it was formed was greater than had ever before combined for the creation of a new Grand Lodge. From the time when the Four Lodges of London renounced their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of York, and formed themselves into an independent Grand Lodge, up to the present period, the greatest number on record of Lodges ever associated to erect a new Grand Lodge was seventeen, whilst forty-one Lodges, and holding warrants, too, from three different jurisdictions, were harmoniously united in the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

We have now stated as briefly as their importance would admit, the whole of the circumstances connected with the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and we submit them with all due respect to your August Body, to whom we have always looked up as the fountain of Masonic knowledge, and the brightest example of virtue, dignity, and benevolence, and from whom the great majority of us claim, and will ever proudly boast, our descent.

Having been entrusted with the sacred duty of directing the affairs of the Craft in this Province, and of representing them and advocating their interests throughout the Universe; and having solemnly undertaken that charge, and to disseminate the grand principles of our Ancient and Honorable Order, and promote to the utmost extent of our ability the general prosperity of the Fraternity, it is our earnest desire and intention to follow, and maintain, pure and unsullied, the ancient landmarks, laws, and traditions of the Craft as we received them from your hands.

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

{ L. S. }

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE GRAND LODGE OF CANADA.

WM. MERCER WILSON,
G. M.

THOS. BIRD HARRIS,
G. S.

HAMILTON, C. W., 10th Nov., A. L., 5855.

EXPULSIONS BY THE GRAND LODGE OF CANADA.

IRA S. BUSHE, and
JAMES MARVIN FAIRWELL,
Of Union Lodge, No. 4, Grimsby.

JOHN W. KERMOTT,
Of St. John's Lodge, No. 14, London.

