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GRAND LODGE was opened on the Second instant, by the M.W. GRAND MASTER in person. The event of the Evening was the reception of H.R.H. THE PRINCE FREDERICK OF PRUSSIA, who was welcomed in becoming terms by the G.M., and saluted in due form by the Brethren, who testified their appreciation of the visit, by their hearty cheers both on his arrival and at his departure. The Temple had been very tastefully decorated as a Waiting Room, the walls being adorned with various flags, among which, the Prussian Eagle occupied a prominent place, and here the G.M. received H.R.H. who then joined the procession of Grand Officers before its entrance into G.L. The arrangements were very ably conducted by Bro. JENNINGS, G.D.C. The Hall was lighted by a row of gas burners running along the cornice, as well as by Standards placed at intervals, on either side. The effect was decidedly good, and the manner in which the details were carried out, as well as the precautions adopted against the risk of fire, reflect great credit upon Bro. HAINES and his colleagues of the Lighting Committee. We have no doubt from this trial, that a good light, and thorough ventilation would be secured by the adoption of the same principle as that in use in the Houses of Parliament.

An attempt was made on the confirmation of the minutes, to obtain the adoption of the whole of the Report of the COLONIAL BOARD relative to Canada, part of which only was adopted at the last G.L.; but after a discussion which was rather excited than exciting, the minutes were confirmed. The technical Question at issue was, whether the main body of the Report was voted to "be not received," which was denied by the Executive, but admitted by their garbled and worthless organ the published minutes.

The sum of £1000 was voted on the motion of the G.M. to the Indian Relief Fund. Much dissatisfaction at the vote had been expressed previously, and serious opposition had been expected; but the vote was allowed to pass unquestioned.

A Memorial from the Ancient Grand Lodge of CANADA was read, and ordered to be entered on the Minutes.

The necessary alterations were ordered in the Book of Constitutions, to give effect to the G. M.'s communi-

cation made in March last, relative to the payment of fees by COLONIAL Lodges. The said alterations are wrongly stated in the Business Paper to be "in conformity with the resolutions of Grand Lodge," to whom they have never been submitted, but only communicated. Perhaps we may be permitted to suggest to District Grand Masters—e.g., Sumatra—the necessity of residing in their own Districts in place of in England, so as to be ready to receive the fees of their subordinate Lodges, in accordance with the M.W.G.M.'s desire.

The Report of the BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES was adopted, recommending the purchase of property in Great Queen Street, so as to enable the Society to improve their accommodation. A Library and Reading Room are promised, and as soon as this is provided, and not before, we have no doubt that books enough will be forthcoming. The publication of the name of a Brother, as connected with a complaint preferred against the Wellington Lodge, might with propriety have been omitted. The Brethren nominated to serve on the BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE were declared to be duly elected.

W. Bro. the Rev. G. R. PORTAL withdrew his motion in favour of an Annual Festival of the Benevolent Institution, on the understanding that the M.W. the G.M. would agree to one being held every two years. A motion for enforcing a return from the P.G.M. of Berks and West Lancashire was also withdrawn by the same Brother, it being understood that the Grand Secretary should repeat his applications for them.

A motion by W. Bro. the Rev. W. WESTALL for publishing the Initiation Charge was negatived. A motion by the same Brother for allowing any P.M. of a Lodge to attend the General Committee in the absence of the W.M. was carried.

A motion by Bro. BENSON, providing for the printing of all reports from Boards and Committees on their presentation to G.L., was negatived. The reasons urged by its opponents against the measure, were, that matter might be contained in the reports which it would be inexpedient to publish. The same might be said—and was urged—against the publication of the Business Paper. In either case discretion must be used; but we have yet to learn that ignorance of the subject to be considered is a desirable element in legislation. Some members of the EXECUTIVE remarked that full information could be obtained, by attendance at the GENERAL COMMITTEE, or in the GRAND SECRETARY'S Office.

They seem to forget that London is not England, and that although our present partial Constitution places the government of the Order in the hands of the London Brethren, yet that the six hundred Country Lodges have an equal right with the one hundred Metropolitan Lodges to full information as to what is to be discussed in G.L.; but this can only be communicated to them by the publication of the reports to be considered. No member of the EXECUTIVE was at the pains to explain the principle upon which Country Masons are taxed with travelling expenses, to obtain that for which their privileged London Brethren pay nothing. GRAND LODGE adjourned soon after Eleven.

WE have always clung to the hope that the P.G.L. of Canada would maintain its connexion with England. We deeply regret that they have decided otherwise. We doubt the policy of the steps they have taken; but we have no doubt whatever as to its strict legality according to all the principles of the Masonic constitution.

Be it observed that the authority of the GRAND MASTER is derived solely from GRAND LODGE, which alone is declared to have "inherent," as distinguished from "delegated," power; and which alone is supreme. This supreme body is "a general representation of all private Lodges on record;" so that union and representation are inseparable; and it is only in so far as it really is a general representation of private Lodges that Grand Lodge has any claim whatever to legislate for them. To talk of a Divine right in the G.M. or in G.L. to govern all English Masons, is as ridiculous as to claim the same authority for the Speaker of the House of Commons, or for the Committee of Management of one of the London Clubs. The arrangement is purely one of convenience, founded, as the Book of Constitutions tells us, p. 16, upon the principle of "representation." Now we should very much like to know how our Canadian Brethren were "represented" in Great Queen Street? There is little enough of representation as regards the English provinces; still, as we are coolly told by the Londoners, we can "come up" if we like, though at a cost of some £5 or £10; but the Canadians could not "come over" and go back again, for less than £60, which they doubtless thought was a heavy *quid* to pay for the very questionable *quo* of having a G.M. in London, in place of at Toronto.

We are therefore unable to see any constitutional objection to the step the Canadians have thought fit to take. To assert that a body of Masons on the other side of the Atlantic, nearly as numerous as ourselves, and of higher social position, are guilty of rebellion because they find it more convenient to have their own representative government in their midst, rather than be governed by the London Lodges, among whom they neither are, nor can be represented, and by a G.M. in whose election they have no voice at all, is an insult to common sense, as well as to common justice.

We had rather rest the question upon these broad

grounds than upon the narrower one of precedent. This, however, is not wanting. In 1717 (as every one knows) four London Lodges, in spite of the existence of a G.M. and G.L. at York having Masonic jurisdiction over all England, met, and formed themselves into a G.L.; and they and the G.L. of York continued to co-exist and to quarrel, till their union in 1813. The quarrelling was foolish, narrow-minded, and un-Masonic; the establishment of the "rebellious" G.L. was neither, as its promoters doubtless found it very inconvenient to take a fortnight's journey to York over a road infested with highwaymen, in order to "represent" their Lodges.

The Canadians, however, have kept strictly within the law. They have returned their warrants to England, thereby severing their connexion with us, and then have formed themselves afresh into a G.L.

Their position is much complicated, by their failure to unite with another body, composed, not of those who have "assumed to defy the authority of the Provincial or District G.L., and to constitute themselves into what they called a G.L.," as has been erroneously stated, but of Scotch and Irish Masons, who are very numerous in Canada, and hold warrants from their own Grand Lodges. These having last year formed themselves into a Grand Lodge, and being joined by a small number of English Masons, have been recognised as such by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, which has equal Masonic jurisdiction with ourselves in Canada. There are now therefore three bodies, all as we believe having a legal and Masonic status, and each anathematizing the other two:—the Grand Lodge of Canada—Scotch, Irish, and some English;—the Ancient G.L. of Canada,—late our P.G.L.;—and, lastly, those few Lodges who still hold our warrants. We sincerely hope that a union between these bodies may very speedily be effected, as the present state of things cannot but be most prejudicial to the best interests of the Order.

We regret to hear rumours that the Province of Quebec and Three Rivers is likely to follow the example of Canada. We trust that this will not be the case, but that they will give a fair trial to the Grand Master's new scheme of local self-government, which was conceived in a liberal spirit, and will, we believe, meet all the requirements of our Colonial Brethren.

THERE are, perhaps, no phrases so frequently in the mouth of certain Masons as "the principles of our Order," and "ancient landmarks." There is scarcely any subject upon which there is so great ignorance in quarters where information might naturally be expected. We trust the new Masonic Library may not be without its effect in remedying this lamentable state of things; but the root of the evil will not be reached till every Mason feels called upon to acquire the Alphabet of the Order, so as to be able to judge for himself, whenever questions of principle are at issue, in place of being forced to trust to the historical accuracy of those who profess, at any rate, to be better informed than himself.

In illustration of our meaning, we will proceed to expose one or two popular fallacies which are much relied on by red tapists at the present time.

It has lately been stated by a great authority, that unity is the very foundation stone of Masonry; and by this is to be understood an inherent power exercised by the Master or Grand Master, who is stated always to have appointed every officer in his Lodge, except the Treasurer, and alone exercised an authority obeyed and upheld by every member. So far is this from being the case, that all authority emanates from the members of the Lodge, by whom the Master is elected annually, and was sometimes half-yearly, and by whom all the officers of the Lodge were invariably appointed. In the Book of Constitutions of 1723, the following law will be found:—"The G.M. shall also nominate the new G. Wardens; and if unanimously approved by the G.L., shall be declared, but if not, they shall be *chosen by ballot* in the same way as the G.M. As the Wardens of Private Lodges are also to be chosen by ballot in each Lodge, if the members thereof do not agree to their Master's nomination." This regulation is still in force in the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland.

Upon this very crazy foundation, an equally shaky edifice has been erected. We are next gravely told that there cannot be a plurality of Grand Masters or Grand Lodges in the same jurisdiction. We had imagined that the idea of any necessary connexion between "Church and State" was sufficiently exploded; but here "Craft and State" are attempted to be linked in a fatal and unholy alliance. Unhappily, however, for the theories of our Masonic jurist, there are at this moment three very flourishing Grand Lodges in the jurisdiction of Her Majesty;—those of England, Scotland, and Ireland. There were, moreover, those of York and London; of which, two of her Royal uncles were respectively Grand Masters. Were either of them fictitious? We mean, of course, the Lodges—not the Dukes. If not, there is nothing contrary to landmarks in more than one Grand Lodge, under the same civil government. On the other hand, if the York G.L. was irregular, how comes the G.L. of England to have become "united" with an irregularity?

Again, take the United States. There is not there one united Lodge, though politically nothing would be more easy or becoming than that there should be a common G.M. with a District G.M. in each state. What volumes might then be written upon the unity of the Great Masonic family, with its common head and spreading branches, &c. ! But delightfully poetical as is the idea, and essential to the "Craft and State" theory, it is, nevertheless, true that every State in the Union, though politically it has one common President, yet, Masonically, has its own G.M. and its own G.L.

THE visits of such distinguished strangers as he whom G.L. had the honour of receiving on the 3rd ult., are, like those of a superior order of beings, so "few and far between," that we can ill forego the gratification

of dwelling, with some complacency and pride, on the impression we may conceive to have been produced upon unbelievers in the Craft, by PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM'S cordial and fraternal recognition of the claims of the English brotherhood upon his time and notice.

It was when the consummate skill and indomitable perseverance of H.R.H.'s illustrious ancestor had raised his throne to an equality with the mightiest of Europe; when Austria, France, Russia, Sweden, had been successfully defied, and the alliance of England with the great soldier-king had induced cabinets to assure to him the conquests of his arms; it was with the comparative decadence of camps, the encouragement of peace and its refinement, the gradual eclipse of barbarism, and the dawning of philosophic thought, that Freemasonry became an acknowledged institution in Prussia, and the first Lodge was founded at Berlin.

A century will soon have passed since then, and great have been the events thronging its onward march. Still the Houses of Guelf and Brandenburg shake hands across the sea, and the hearty approbation of the two great Protestant nations ratifies and confirms the alliance. We have dared and done much together since those early days; we have risked (though with unequal fortune) great interests in a common cause; we have been crowned with a twin glory on victorious battle-fields, and as if encouraged by social amelioration and heightened fame, the strong heart of our time-hallowed Order has beat with vigour ever freshened. Now therefore that the young hope of Prussia seeks to unite himself still closer to us by the hand of a much-loved Princess, it is gratifying to see that not only the goodwill and esteem of the great in the outer world are the objects of his ambition, but that he is also desirous of asking for, what he surely will obtain, the friendship and cordial alliance of that dynasty which outlives the nations of the earth, and whose sway is bounded but by the sacred laws of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

It was but to the dry detail of our business that the young Prince was introduced. We may almost assume that the debates which, at the suggestion of the M.W.T.G.M. were postponed, would have been to His Royal Highness a source of greater and possibly more instructive amusement. The challenge of the reformer, the rejoinder of the official; the taunt of the experienced tactician disguised (like drugs administered to children) in the honey of unexceptionable diction, yet wringing from lips not so well tutored, hot words with their consequent apologies;—the division; the orderly acquiescence in triumph or defeat;—all these reflections of discussions "in another place" might have shewn the Prince that the assembly that so cordially welcomed him combined, with possibly some of the faults of English Masons, their love of constitutional liberty, their tolerance of constitutional authority, their interest in the prosperous perpetuation of the Craft.

But possibly, taking a darker view of human nature in general, and Masonic in particular, the Royal Brother might have consumed moments of thought in seeking the solution of that problem which we confess is a hard

one; in endeavouring to discover the revolutionary tendencies of motions, apparently so innocent, yet which evoked the indignant opposition of the Executive. Well, we may be unwise in our wish that he had been admitted to a real debate. He is at least happily ignorant of that black and hideous conspiracy against the virtuous and the great, which would seem proved to demonstration by the tactics of so many purples, who with rapidity of conclusion and unanimity of resolve, characteristic, no doubt, of superior intelligence, are ever banded to crush all suggestions not of their own prompting.

A man conversant, indeed, with our proceedings and history for the last eighteen months, might distrust the existence of treasons requiring such coercion. A Brother, remembering who struggled to save the lost provinces, might estimate, at its true value, the undisguised hostility to independence of thought. Does it arise (he might ask) from fear of future watchfulness? Or is it assumed (he might hint) in revenge for past detection and exposure?

"Tantæne animis cælestibus iræ?"

But to a stranger's eyes such exhibitions were perhaps as well spared; and this was done by the early departure of the Royal visitor, whose short but hearty farewell speech gave earnest that, while in some lands still Masonry may be reviled and persecuted, it will always find, where his influence avails, a sanctuary and a home.

We feel assured that, however wide may be the differences (and we deeply regret them) between ourselves and some other Brethren on matters of Masonic policy, we express but the sentiments of the Craft at large in acknowledging with gratitude and reciprocity the esteem manifested towards the Freemasons of England by the visit of the future Son-in-law of our beloved Queen.

ADMISSION INTO MASONRY.—The following is an extract from an address by Bro. Chase to the G.L. of New Hampshire. "We are too apt to act as if we may and ought to receive every man that applies for admission, who is not openly and publicly an immoral or scandalous man. Some, whose habits were dangerously irregular, have been admitted, because they were 'good-hearted fellows,' and perhaps Masonry would be the means of mending them. In such cases we forget the important fact that our Lodges are not, should not, and cannot be *moral reform associations*. The ancient charges distinctly aver that only 'good men and true' should be permitted to gain an entrance within the veil of our tabernacle. Ours is a *spiritual* edifice, in the construction of which no rotten or crooked sticks, no rough, broken, cracked, stained, or superfluous cornered stones, should be allowed a place. Great care should be taken that their defects be found out before they have been removed from the mountain and the quarry, that our workmen be not impeded in their labours by time wasted upon material wholly unfit for use. We should be extremely cautious that our 'partiality for our friend' does not lead us to propose those who are unworthy of our confidence and respect, and whose admission will only work evil and trouble, and that continually. It is not enough that we know no *hurt* of a petitioner; that we never heard anything *against* his moral character. The question should rather be, do we know any *good* of him? He should not be merely *neutral* in his morality and goodness, but positively and actively a 'good and true man.' These *neutrals* in the moral world are not fit subjects for Freemasonry. They only serve to swell our numbers at the expense of quality, and occupy room that might be, and should be filled by *living* stones. As they were out of the Order, so will they be in it—lukewarm, neither cold or hot,—and we know that this was once deemed a grave charge, and sufficient to destroy a whole Church. Our honours were intended for worthy men, and worthy men alone, and they are safe in no other hands. No moral or mental hermaphrodite should ever be allowed among us, any more than one physically such."

GRAND LODGE.

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The usual Quarterly Communication of the United Grand Lodge of England was held on the evening of the 2nd ult., in the Freemasons' Hall. The attendance of the Brethren was more numerous than usual, it having been rumored that H.R.H. Prince Frederick William of Prussia had accepted the invitation of the M.W. the G.M., and intended to honor Grand Lodge by his presence. The Temple was fitted up with great taste as a reception-room, and there the G.M. and the rest of the Grand Officers awaited the arrival of the Prince.

A little after eight, the procession entered the Hall, led by the G. Tyler. The Grand Master and his Royal visitor walked side by side. So soon as the distinguished party reached the dais, the Brethren greeted H.R.H. with three lusty cheers, and the applause was continued for some minutes, H.R.H. bowing in recognition of the enthusiastic compliment paid to him. Bro. Sir Lucius Curtis, P.G.M. of Hauts, acted as Deputy G.M.; Bro. The Earl of Durham filled his own chair as S.W.; and Bro. Beadon, P.G.J.W., officiated as J.W. There were also present:—Bros. Roxburgh, G.S.D.; Stephen Barton Wilson, G.J.D.; Cox, G.C.; Henderson, G.R.; Nicholson, G.D.C.; Chapman, Asst. G.D.C.; Clarke, G. Sec.; Farnfield, Asst. G. Sec.; Havers, P.G.D.; Spiers, P.G.S.B.; and several other P.G. Officers. Bro. Maxwell C. Close, M.P., was also present by special permission. Grand Lodge having been opened in solemn form,

The M.W. the GRAND MASTER said: Brethren, I am sure it will be a great pleasure to you, to hear H.R.H. Prince Frederick William of Prussia express the gratification which he feels, at being so highly honored as he has been by the reception you have this evening given him. You are all aware that we have for a long time contemplated an alliance with Prussia. We have now present in Grand Lodge a representative from that country. H.R.H. Prince Frederick William was not long ago initiated into the mysteries of our Order; and he has expressed to me the gratification which it gives him to make acquaintance with the Grand Lodge of England, which he this night honors by his presence amongst us. Brethren, you will with pleasure attend to the Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Bro. JENNINGS hereupon proclaimed in Grand Lodge the name and titles of the Prince, and called upon the Brethren to salute him as Master Masons with Seren. This order was complied with in hearty good earnest, with a precision in time truly astonishing, and which seemed to astonish the illustrious visitor in whose honor it was done.

H.R.H. Prince FREDERICK WILLIAM OF PRUSSIA: Brethren, allow me to express to you the pleasure which I feel, in being now present, for the first time, so happily among you. It is the first time I have been in this house, but my heart and the warmest feelings of my heart have always been among you, from the first time I had the honor and happiness of being made a Freemason. (Great applause.)

The GRAND SECRETARY then read the minutes of the last Quarterly Communication.

The M.W. the GRAND MASTER having put them for confirmation: W. Bro. BINCKES rose to propose an amendment.

The M.W. the GRAND MASTER: Perhaps under the peculiar circumstances of the case, our being honored with the presence of H.R.H., and the amendment of Bro. Binckes being likely to lead to some discussion, it would be as well to postpone the confirmation of the minutes to a later hour in the evening. (Hear, hear.)

W. Bro. BINCKES entirely concurred, but presumed his right to move the amendment would not be prejudiced by the delay.

The M.W. the GRAND MASTER said, that when the minutes were put for confirmation, any Brother could move an amendment. He was only anxious for the postponement of anything that might lead to a difference of opinion till after the retirement of H.R.H., which would probably be before the end of the evening.

NOMINATION OF THE M.W.G.M.

W. Bro. SLIGHT rose to nominate the G.M. for re-election. Whatever differences of opinion might have existed in G.L., all were agreed in gratitude to the G.M. for his services to the Craft, and in their desire to see him again fill the chair which he had now occupied for thirteen years. (Hear, hear.)

THE INDIAN RELIEF FUND.

The Most W. the G.M. rose and said—Brethren, I have now according to notice, to move, that, taking into consideration the numerous murders and barbarities committed by the Sepoys of Bengal upon the British inhabitants, and the great extent of distress and misery entailed upon their families—distress and misery scarcely paralleled in history—this Grand Lodge do grant the sum of £1000 to be paid out of the Fund of General Purposes, in aid of the voluntary fund now in the course of formation for the relief of the sufferers. In

making this motion, it is due to you that I should explain my reasons, for taking this course. It has been suggested that this is not a pure Masonic vote (Hear, hear), inasmuch as it is not limited to the relief of our suffering Brethren in India. (Hear, hear.) I shall therefore now state the reasons why I think it right that you should agree to the vote in its present form. You are all aware of the magnificent subscription which has been made both here and in foreign countries to the enormous amount of nearly £300,000 for the relief of our suffering fellow-countrymen in India. Now we have in India a large number of Brethren, sufferers from the revolt. These will all derive assistance from that subscription, which, as I have already stated, has been made both here and in foreign countries. It therefore does appear to me more in accordance with charity, more liberal, and, at the same time, more frugal, to add our contribution to the general fund, as our Brethren will largely benefit from the munificence of others. (Hear, hear.) We should not, I think, act a selfish part, but act that generous part which I now propose. The course which I intend to pursue is this. We have not in Freemasonry a machinery capable of distributing so large a sum over so wide an area as that formed by our suffering Brethren in India; and therefore it is impossible that the vote could be confined to the relief of Masons only. The General Fund, on the contrary, is already under such a good system of management, that it secures the greatest amount of good with the least amount of inconvenience. The subscriptions already entered into will be participated in by our Brethren, and therefore by not confining our contribution to one particular section of the sufferers, we shall do the greatest good to our own Brethren. (Hear, hear.) I am quite sure that is the best thing we can do. Another objection I heard urged to the vote, that it is not Masonic, but, on the contrary, unjust to vote away the Fund of Benevolence for any other purpose than the relief of distressed Masons or their families. In answer to that objection, all I have to say is, that we are not at all touching the Fund of Benevolence. (Hear, hear.) It is not from the Fund of Benevolence, but from the Fund of General Purposes, that I propose the money should be paid. I hope I have said enough to show that this vote is a proper vote for Grand Lodge to come to. The motion I have to propose is this:—“That, taking into consideration the numerous murders and barbarities committed by the Sepoys of Bengal upon the British inhabitants, and the great extent of distress and misery entailed upon their families, distress and suffering scarcely paralleled in history, this Grand Lodge do grant the sum of £1000, to be paid out of the Fund of General Purposes in aid of the Voluntary Fund now in the course of formation for the relief of the sufferers.”

Bro. the EARL of DURHAM, G.S.W. seconded the proposition which was then put from the chair and carried by an overwhelming majority, only four or five hands being held up against it.

AMERICA.

A letter from the M.W. Grand Master of Massachusetts, addressed to the M.W. Grand Master of England and his reply, were then read and entered on the minutes.

CANADA.

A memorial, addressed to the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England, from “the Ancient Grand Lodge of Canada,” signed “Allan N. Macnab, P.G.M.,” was next laid before the Grand Lodge. It will be found *in extenso* under our Canadian intelligence.

The GRAND REGISTRAR moved that the communication be received and entered on the minutes, but thought in a matter of so much importance the action of Grand Lodge should remain unfettered until they might receive some further information respecting it.

W. Bro., the Rev. G. R. PORTER, had great pleasure in seconding the motion. Under the extremely painful circumstances of the case, they would, he thought, best consult the interest of the Craft by delaying all further action until they had fuller information than they at present possessed.

W. Bro. BINCKES suggested that the communication should be printed and circulated among the Brethren before the next meeting of G.L., as it was impossible to form an adequate opinion upon it merely from hearing it read.

The GRAND REGISTRAR assented to this suggestion. The motion was then agreed to.

BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS.

The GRAND REGISTRAR, in moving the following alterations in the Book of Constitutions, said, they were the substance of the recommendations made to Grand Lodge in March last; and as the subject matter of them had been already debated, all Grand Lodge had now to do was to sanction them.

The alterations were then moved and carried.—“After Art. 26, at page 65, to add, ‘In order to avoid delay, and for the accommoda-

tion of Lodges in the Colonies and foreign parts for which a Provincial Grand Master is appointed, those Lodges may make their returns and payments to the Provincial Grand Master or such Brother as he may direct, but for the due remittance of which to the Grand Lodge the Provincial Grand Master shall be personally responsible; which Provincial Grand Master is thereupon to deliver Grand Lodge Certificates, which will be furnished to him for the purpose, and which Certificates are to be countersigned as specified at page 85.’

“When a return and payment has so been made to a Provincial Grand Master, or other Brother on his behalf, the Lodge making the same shall forthwith transmit to the Grand Secretary, in London, a duplicate of the return, signed by the W. Master and the Secretary or Treasurer, specifying the date when, and the party to whom, the return and payment have been made, and also specifying for whom the Provincial Grand Master has issued Certificates; and, further, the Provincial Grand Master shall immediately, or with all reasonable expedition, forward to the Grand Secretary the returns received from the several Lodges in his district, together with the amount payable thereon, so that the Brethren may be duly registered and the money placed to the credit of the respective Lodges in the Grand Treasurer’s accounts.

“In Article 5, p. 85, after the words, ‘Grand Secretary,’ in the second line, to add the following:—‘Except in the British Colonies and settlements, or foreign districts, for which a Provincial Grand Master is appointed, and to whom Grand Lodge certificates may be forwarded as hereafter mentioned.’

“And after the said Article 5, to add the following:—‘The Grand Secretary be authorised to furnish to Provincial Grand Masters for colonies or foreign districts Grand Lodge Certificates, with the necessary alterations in the form, signed and sealed; but in other respects to be left blank: the blanks being to be filled up by the Provincial Grand Master, or by his order, with the names and dates of the Brethren initiated, &c., by Lodges within his province or district, or of Brethren who shall join such Lodges as set forth in the returns made to him; which Grand Lodge Certificates shall have attached to them the Seal of the Provincial Grand Lodge and be countersigned by the Provincial Grand Master, or his deputy, and by the Provincial Grand Secretary.’

“To omit the word ‘Foreign,’ in the third line of the law relating to Register Fees, at page 107, and to add, after that law, the following:—‘The Registration Fee for a Mason made in a colonial or foreign Lodge, Seven Shillings and Sixpence sterling, which payment shall include the Grand Lodge Certificate; the Fee for a Brother joining any such Lodge, Two Shillings and Sixpence, but if he require a Grand Lodge Certificate, then the full Fee of Seven Shillings and Sixpence is to be paid.’”

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The report of the Board of Benevolence was then brought forward, it recommended the following cases to Grand Lodge:—Bro. Wm. Finch, of No. 253, Norwich, £30; the widow of Bro. Henry Thos. Foreman, No. 233, London, £30; the widow of Thos. F. Meyrick, of No. 607, Wolverhampton, £50.

W. Bro. SMITH, G.P., moved, and W. Bro. ADLARD seconded these recommendations *seriatim*. The first and third were unanimously agreed to.

On the second being put to the vote,

W. Bro. GREGORY moved, as an amendment, that the sum should be increased from £30 to £100. The late Bro. Foreman had for many years laboured for the welfare of the Masonic Charities, and had been appointed one of the Grand Officers, and as such had long sat upon the Dais. The sum which it was now proposed to present to his bereaved widow would very inadequately repay it. His contributions to the charities amounted to a much larger sum. Bro. Foreman had been reduced from a state of comparative opulence to one of destitution, by the failure of a bank in which he had been engaged, and which brought his life to an untimely end.

W. Bro. SAVAGE seconded the amendment, as he thought £30 anything but liberal.

R. W. Bro. BEADON suggested that as the Board of Benevolence, to whom G.L. entrusted all inquiry into cases for relief, had only recommended a donation of £30, some reason should be given for its being now increased. He had no doubt there were good reasons why it should be so, but they ought to be submitted to G.L.

W. Bro. HAVERS entirely concurred in what had fallen from Bro. Beadon, but he, with the greatest pleasure, was there to stand forward to afford the necessary information. The late Bro. Foreman had been, during his Masonic career, one of the best working Masons in the Craft; he had served the office of Steward to all the Charities; he had also served the office of Grand Steward, and the Grand Master had been pleased to appoint him one of the Grand Officers. The failure of Cockburn’s bank reduced Bro. Foreman to a state of desti-

tution, and he died a broken-hearted man. If these facts had been laid before the Board of Benevolence he had no doubt they would have recommended a much larger sum, and although he (Bro. Havers) felt the full force of what had been said with respect to giving force to the recommendations of the Board, he yet thought G.L. would do itself credit and honour in agreeing to the amendment.

W. Bro. PORTAL said he was entirely a stranger to the Board of Benevolence, but he thought that their recommendation ought to be attended to. He questioned if G.L. set aside that recommendation whether it would not amount to a vote of censure upon the Board. (No, no.) He apprehended all the circumstances of the case had been laid before that Board, and he should pray the Brethren present to hesitate before they allowed so large an increase to be made to the recommendation of the Board, unless it could be shewn that there had been a great many facts concealed from their knowledge. If the chairman of the Board was present he hoped he would tell them how far that had been the case, and he also hoped the Brethren would not allow themselves to be led away in this matter.

W. Bro. KING judged from the amount recommended, as compared with that now proposed, that some of the circumstances of the case must have been omitted, and thought that it would be better that the question should be referred back to them for further consideration.

W. Bro. SMITH, as Chairman of the Board of Benevolence on the evening the case was inquired into, said that he had expected that their recommendation would have been unanimously adopted. There had been at the Board a division of opinion, as some members wished to recommend a donation of £20, and not one of £30, for they had, in the petition before them, been kept quite in the dark as to any peculiar circumstances, to distinguish this from any other case; and those Brethren who recommended the petition did not attend to support it, although it had been two or three times before the Board, and this was the difficulty in sending it back to them for further consideration, for they could not secure the attendance of those Brethren who ought to attend to support the case.

W. Bro. ROXBURGH, G.S., concurred in the opinion of those who thought it the duty of G.L. to support its subordinate Boards, but did not think that G.L. could abdicate its own power of altering their decisions upon being furnished with reasons for doing so. It had been suggested that this case should be referred back to the Board for further consideration, but that would occasion a delay of at least three months, and they knew the old adage said, that while the grass grows the stud starves. That was not a position in which to leave the widow of a Brother when they had ample evidence before them, in the personal knowledge of very many of their members, of the urgent character of the case. That distress existed was evidenced by the recommendation of the Board, while the peculiarity of the case consisted in this, that the husband of the applicant had served the stewardship of all the Charities. He should cordially support the amendment.

W. Bro. DE BERNARDY explained that it was in consequence of the death of the M.W. of Bro. Foreman's Lodge, that the petition had not been supported by him when before the Board. Bro. Foreman had been a patron of the Charities of the Order, the father of the widow, and ever ready to dry the orphan's tear. (Applause.) G.L. was now asked to do towards his widow that favour which he had ever been ready to show to those who were in distress. He had done honour to the Craft, and the Craft should now prove its gratitude for his services. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. R. BENSON, as a matter of order, wished to know if it were competent for him to move an amendment upon an amendment.

The M.W. the GRAND MASTER: One amendment must be disposed of before another can be proposed. It is quite competent for any Brother, should the present amendment be negatived, to move another upon the original resolution.

W. Bro. SYMONDS remarked, that according to the Book of Constitutions, no motion for a grant of money could be made without due notice; and he wished to know if it were competent for any Brother to move an increase upon the sum notified to them in the recommendation of the Board of Benevolence.

The M.W. the GRAND MASTER considered it was. At all events, it had been constantly done; and practice, he conceived, established the right.

The amendment was then put, and carried by a large majority.

The result was received with great approbation.

PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM OF PRUSSIA.

The M.W. the GRAND MASTER then said: Brethren, I know that it is the anxious wish of H.R.H. Prince Frederick William of Prussia to pay the Freemasons of England every mark of esteem in his power; and I now venture to offer to him, in the name of Grand Lodge, a copy of our Book of Constitutions.

His Lordship then placed a handsomely bound copy of the Book of Constitutions in the hands of H.R.H.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES.

W. Bro. BINCKES rose to move the non-confirmation of the minutes, so far as related to the rejection of certain portions of the report of the Colonial Board. He could have wished that no difference of opinion might have been shown on that evening, but a sense of duty compelled him to take this course; and he only hoped that, throughout the discussion, there might be mutual forbearance and gentlemanly feeling. He regretted his absence at the last G.L., when the report was brought up, a portion of which had been rejected upon two distinct grounds; the first being, that the Board had exceeded its power—and the second, that the language of the report reflected upon the G.M. With regard to the first objection, it was desirable they should see what was the original constitution of the Colonial Board itself; and he would refer to the resolution of Grand Lodge appointing the Colonial Board, and forming it upon the same basis as the Board of General Purposes. The Book of Constitutions, defining the power of the Board of General Purposes, clearly shewed that it had power to offer an opinion upon all matters brought before it when reporting upon them to Grand Lodge; and hence, he argued, the Colonial Board had the same power.

The M.W. the GRAND MASTER: Bro. Binckes, without wishing to interrupt you, I think it may greatly assist us, if you will, in the first instance, state what your motion is.

W. Bro. BINCKES replied, that his motion was the non-confirmation of that portion of the minutes, which rejected a portion of the report of the Colonial Board.

The M.W. the GRAND MASTER here intimated, that it was the desire of H.R.H. Prince Frederick William to retire.

On this announcement being made, Bro. Jennings, G.D.C., marshalled the Grand Officers in regular order, to conduct H.R.H. from the Lodge.

H.R.H.: Brethren, I take leave of you with regret; and I again assure you how deeply sensible I am of the welcome I have received among you. This is the first time I have been in this house, but it shall not be the last. (Cheers.) I cannot express to you how much attached I am to your most respectable Order. (Great cheers.)

H.R.H. was then conducted from the Hall.

The Grand Officers having returned to their proper places in the Lodge.

W. Bro. HAVERS said, he wished, before Bro. Binckes made any farther observations, to state that there was no motion for the confirmation of any minutes, relating to the rejection of the report of the Colonial Board; and he thought the minutes, if correctly entered, would bear him out in saying so, for it had been his most earnest wish, and he had been particularly attentive in framing his motion, so that it might not give offence to any Brother. The words he had used were, that certain paragraphs of that report should be accepted; but he denied that he had moved for the rejection of any part of it. Bro. Binckes's motion, therefore, went for the non-confirmation of a matter, which did not at all appear upon the minutes.

Bro. R. BENSON did not see how Bro. Havers's explanation rendered the motion of Bro. Binckes unnecessary, which was the non-confirmation of that portion of the minutes, which related to the rejection of certain portions of the report of the Colonial Board. Surely, their non-acceptance meant their rejection.

The M.W. the G.M. said, that as he understood Bro. Havers's explanation there was on the books no mention of the rejection of any portion of the report; all that appeared there being, that certain paragraphs had been adopted without any reference to the non-adoption of others.

W. Bro. HAVERS said that such was the case.

W. Bro. BINCKES.—Well, if that be so, it is the most Jesuitical piece of special pleading I ever listened to.

The GRAND REGISTRAR here informed Bro. Binckes that if he carried his motion it would amount to the non-confirmation of all the minutes.

W. Bro. BINCKES referred to the *Freemason's Magazine* as the authorised organ of the Grand Lodge, reading extracts from it to show that Bro. Havers had spoken in favour of the rejection of certain portions of the report of the Colonial Board.

The M.W. the G.M. explained that the editor of the *Magazine* was allowed to take notes, but Grand Lodge was not responsible for their accuracy.

W. Bro. BINCKES proceeded to say that even should his motion have the effect of rejecting all the minutes of the last meeting of G.L., he should now persevere in it. The fault would not be his, but would attach to those who met him with a line of argument which he had already described as Jesuitical special pleading. He conceived that great injustice had been done the Colonial Board in the course taken

at the last meeting of G.L., and he had again to express his regret that he had not been present to protest against it. A number of papers had been referred to them, by order of the G.M., and they, in their report, did not give the mere abstract of their contents, but expressed their opinion with respect to them. Was there anything stated in that opinion which was not in perfect consonance with the facts of the case? Yet because of their having expressed that opinion a Brother thought himself justified in moving its rejection, and in doing so he said he objected to the report because it had gone too far, and said too much, but that he should not have objected to it if it had gone further and said much more. Such an observation as that should never have been made in G.L. (Hear, hear.) It was then stated that it was a monstrous thing for the Board to take upon itself to recommend any course of action to G.L. It was no such thing, but was, on the contrary, a duty of the Board in the exercise of its legitimate functions, and if the relations with the P.G.L. of Canada had been referred to them years before, the state of things now existing would not exist at all.

The GRAND REGISTRAR rose to order and denied that it was competent for Bro. Binckes to enter upon the discussion of that matter, when moving the non-confirmation of the minutes.

R. W. Bro. DOBIE, P.G.R., said, he understood that part of the report had been adopted, and the other part not actually rejected, but allowed to drop through, and all that was now asked was that the minute of the adoption of the report so far should be confirmed. There was therefore no opening for Bro. Binckes's amendment.

W. Bro. BINCKES thought it unfortunate such a course had been adopted.

The M.W. the G.M.—I think the misfortune is that Bro. Binckes was not present at the last meeting of Grand Lodge, when the whole matter was discussed.

W. Bro. BINCKES was willing, if out of order, to sit down.

The M.W. the G.M.—I do not take it upon myself to say you are out of order, but should you carry your motion it will amount to the rejection of all the minutes.

W. Bro. BINCKES was willing to take that responsibility, as the report of the Colonial Board might as well be rejected in the gross, as with regard to a portion of it.

After a pause,

W. Bro. BINCKES said that, having showed that the Colonial Board had not exceeded its power, he should now proceed with the second part of his argument, and prove that in the language of the report there was nothing disrespectful to the G.M.

W. Bro. ROXBURGH said there was no question before the chair upon which Bro. Binckes could go on to refer to the language of the report.

W. Bro. BINCKES appealed to the M.W. the G.M. to know if he had permission to go on with his observations.

The M.W. the G.M.—You have my permission to do so; but I tell you that your motion involves the non-confirmation of the whole of the minutes.

W. Bro. BINCKES was thankful to his Lordship, but regretted that he had been so frequently interrupted by the Brethren on the dais. He had a strong objection to the manner in which the report of the Colonial Board had been received, and felt it his duty to try and have that recalled; and he had expected, that after the honest, manly, and Masonic confession of his Lordship in March last, there would have been no disposition to quarrel with the report of the Board. As that, however, had not been the case, he should move the non-confirmation of the minutes generally, and in doing so, would say that from his lordship he had received every attention and courtesy; and to his authority he was disposed to bow: but he would ask any unbiassed Bro. present if there was not in action an unconstitutional and an extraneous authority usurped by others in derogation of the dignity of the G.M. (Hear, hear.)

The M.W. the G.M.—Does any Brother second the motion?

Bro. BENSON said, if no one else was prepared to do so, he was. (Ironical cheers.) He heard some cheers, and would say in answer to them, Cheer on. He thought Bro. Binckes had a good *locus standi* in moving the rejection of a certain portion of the minutes; for he considered that the conduct of the Brother, who, at the last meeting of Grand Lodge, had moved the rejection of a portion of the report of the Colonial Board, had been altogether irregular. At least he had always imagined—and he referred to the G.M. if it was not so in another and more important assembly—that when the report of a committee was brought forward, the first motion made was that it should be adopted. (Hear, hear.) If that was so, he must remark that on the occasion of the report of the Colonial Board coming before G.L. at their last meeting, no opportunity was given to any Brother to move its adoption. Before that could be done, up jumps an independent member of G.L., as he would compliment Bro. Havers, by

calling him (a laugh), and moved as an original motion, that which in regularity should have been an amendment. (Hear, hear.) By that means Bro. Havers got the first hearing, placing the supporters of the report at the disadvantage of having to address the Lodge later in the evening, when their attention was exhausted, when the lassitude was general, and when they were sick of the very name of a motion.

W. Bro. HAVERS claimed the attention of G.L. for a few moments, with regard to observations of Bro. Binckes. That Brother commenced his speech, by expressing the hope that, whatever might be their differences of opinion, they would conduct themselves as gentlemen and Masons; but he had followed up that very proper wish, by accusing him (Bro. Havers) of Jesuitical conduct. (Hear, hear; and ironical cheers.) Now if he (Bro. Havers) knew anything of the meaning of the word Jesuit, it meant one who proceeded to his object in an underhand and snake-like manner. He would now ask them if they considered him a gentleman, if they believed that he went straight forward in whatever he had to do? (Hear, hear; and a titter.) If that was the case, what became of the charge of his being a Jesuit? It had always been his maxim to act as an independent Mason; (hear, hear, from Bro. Benson) and whatever was, in his judgment, opposed to the welfare of the Craft, he should ever oppose.

Here some strong observations were interchanged between Bro. Havers and Binckes, and ultimately

W. Bro. BINCKES expressed his regret, if in the heat of the moment he had said anything disrespectful to G.L.

W. Bro. HAVERS most cordially accepted that expression of regret. When the report was brought up, no one rose on the part of the Colonial Board to move its adoption, or to say one word in its favor, although there were several of its members present. He, finding such to be the case, brought forward his motion, in the framing of which he had most anxiously studied to so word it, that it might not prove offensive to any one. Influenced by that desire, he moved the acceptance of all those portions of the report, which had relation to the duty of the Board. He felt then, and he still felt, that a subordinate body was not in a position to make any recommendation to a superior one; and in not moving for the adoption of the other portions of the report, he had been altogether influenced by a sense of duty. He would again deny that he had moved the rejection of any portion of the report; and therefore nothing could be more irregular than the moving of that which did not require any confirmation.

The M.W. the GRAND MASTER inquired of Bro. Benson, if he wished to know what was the parliamentary practice with respect to committees.

Bro. BENSON.—Yes.

The M.W. the GRAND MASTER.—At first the report of a committee in parliament is brought up, which is equivalent to a motion here for the reception of the report. It is then discussed, paragraph by paragraph; so that it may happen that a portion of it is adopted, and a portion rejected.

Bro. BENSON.—If I understand your Lordship aright, the first motion made is that the report be brought up, that is, received; but that it would not be competent for any one to move that it should not be brought up. (Hear, hear.)

The amendment was then put from the chair, and lost by a considerable majority. The minutes were then confirmed.

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

On the motion of W. Bro. H. G. WARREN, the report of the Board of General Purposes, of which the following is a copy, was taken as read.

"To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.

"The Board of General Purposes beg to report, that Mr. Solomon, the owner of the property in Great Queen Street and Queen's Place, adjoining the Society's premises on the west side (the purchase of which property has been sanctioned by Grand Lodge), being unwilling to sell the freehold at the price that the Grand Lodge had authorised the Board to offer; and the Board considering that no improvement could be made to the Society's property, nor the additional accommodation required by the Craft be obtained until the proposed purchase was completed; they have entered into an agreement with Mr. Solomon to buy the house, No. 59, Great Queen Street, and all the houses and that portion of the court belonging to the houses situated in Queen's Place, at an advance of £250 on the sum already sanctioned by Grand Lodge: that an abstract of the title is now in the hands of Mr. Dobie for investigation: and that Mr. Solomon has entered into a contract to complete the purchase and to give up possession, if required, by the 24th day of December next.

"The Board therefore, under all the circumstances, recommend Grand Lodge to authorize them to complete the purchase for the sum of £3,250.

"The Board have also to report, that in order to render the property proposed to be purchased of Mr. Solomon available for the wants of the Society, they found it necessary to enter into arrangements with the lessee of the houses, now the property of the Society, and situated on the opposite side of Queen's Place, to surrender the lease, of which nearly seven years still remain unexpired. The representatives of the late Mr. Hyatt, the lessee, have agreed to surrender the lease, and give up possession at Christmas Day next, for the sum of £200; and the Board recommend that Grand Lodge should authorize them to carry out that arrangement.

"The Board have also to report, that in consequence of Mr. Bacon withdrawing the offer he had made to rent some premises at the rear of the hotel, and situated in Middle Yard, Great Queen Street, and Mr. Lambert, the late tenant thereof, having expressed his willingness to continue as tenant and to pay the increased rent that Mr. Bacon was to have paid, the Board have let the same to Mr. Lambert as a yearly tenant, at the sum of £50 a year.

"The Board have also to report, that in consequence of the great inconvenience experienced from the want of adequate light and sufficient ventilation in the Hall and Temple, they are engaged in an inquiry as to the most suitable mode of obtaining these results, and they have directed a sub-committee to try some experiments in lighting the Hall, at an expense not exceeding £20; and that these experiments are now in the course of trial.

"The want of a Censer to be used at the dedication of Lodges and other Masonic ceremonies having been frequently felt, the Board beg to report that they have directed one to be purchased. And they recommend that the M.W. the Grand Master be respectfully requested to give directions that the vessels used at the consecration of Lodges, and which are the property of Grand Lodge, be allowed to be used at the consecration of any private Lodge which may apply for their use. Such vessels to be under the charge of the Grand Director of Ceremonies; and the expense of removal, and any damage or loss which may occur, to be made good by the Lodge applying.

"The Board have further to report, that having received a report from the Library and Museum Committee, they are of opinion that it is highly desirable, both for the interests of the Order and for the advantage of the Brethren generally, that a fitting and proper room should be provided as a Museum and Library, which should be open to all members of Grand Lodge under proper regulations. That an earnest invitation be addressed to Brethren of the Order, whosoever situate, inviting contributions of Masonic Works, or of any objects tending to illustrate the Order; accompanied by an assurance that the Board will spare no efforts to cause a suitable and fit repository to be provided for their reception.

"The Board have finally to report, that a complaint was preferred against the Wellington Lodge, No. 805, Lewisham, by a Brother, for illegally excluding him. On due inquiry into all the circumstances, the Board found that the Lodge had failed to comply with the requisitions laid down in the Book of Constitutions, inasmuch as they had given that Brother no regular notice of the time when the alleged cause of complaint against him would be taken into consideration. The Board have therefore decided that his exclusion is invalid, and that he is consequently still a member of the Wellington Lodge, No. 805."

W. Bro. ROXBURGH moved that the foregoing report be received and entered upon the minutes, and the motion having been seconded was unanimously agreed to.

The purchase of Mr. Solomon's property was then regularly sanctioned, and a conversation arose upon the subject of the lighting and ventilation of the Hall. The first was exceedingly brilliant, but the latter was very indifferent. In the course of the conversation it was stated that several professional architects, members of the Craft, were upon the committee for superintending the experiments which are being made for both these purposes; and the M.W. the G.M. suggested the adoption of a system of ventilation which he has in use in his own house in Yorkshire, and which he considered most efficient, it being the system of Mr. Watson, of Wakefield. With regard to the new censer the G.M. said, he had no objection to give his consent to its being used at the consecration of private Lodges, provided it did not go out of the possession of the Grand Director of the ceremonies, or of the Grand Tyler.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The following P.M.'s were elected upon the Board of Benevolence, namely, Brothers Adlard, Barnes, Barrett, Burton, Gay, Ireland, Isaacs, Lambert, Odell, Sheen, Wilson, and Young.

THE CHARGE.

Bro. Rev. WILLIAM WESTHALL then moved:—"That the Charge at the Initiation of an Entered Apprentice be printed and bound up with every future edition of the Book of Constitutions."

Bro. SAVAGE seconded the motion, which, on a division, was lost by a small majority.

ATTENDANCE AT THE BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

Bro. Rev. WILLIAM WESTHALL, then moved:—"That in the Book of Constitutions, page 20, sec. 8, Edition, 1855, to leave out all from the word 'attend' to the end of the section, and insert the following:—"The immediate Past Master may supply his place; should that Brother be unable to attend, some other Past Master of such Lodge may act for him, but in every case the Past Master must be a Subscribing Member of that Lodge."

The object of the present motion was to give the immediate P.M. the right of attending should the W.M. be unable to do so, and in the case of the illness of the immediate P.M. to pass on that right to one of the other P.M.'s, without the necessity of a letter from the W.M.

W. Bro. ROXBURGH cordially supported the alteration, as it would he thought be productive of great convenience.

W. Bro. SAVAGE also supported it.

W. Bro. WARREN would enlarge the attendance and permit the presence of any P.M., provided he was a Subscribing Member of a Lodge, either the Lodge of which he was P.M., or any other Lodge.

The M.W. the G.M. intimated that such an extension of the right of attendance was out of the question.

The motion was then agreed to.

REPORTS OF BOARDS.

Brother RALPH A. BENSON next moved:—"That all reports of Boards and Committees shall, in future, be printed and circulated on their presentation to Grand Lodge." Some he was aware might think it a reflection upon the manner in which such reports had been hitherto presented to G.L., and especially the report of the Colonial Board at the last meeting of G.L.; and to some extent it was so, but not the slightest discourtesy was intended to be shewn. The Brethren in September last, complained with some measure of justice, that they were excluded from an opportunity of patiently and thoroughly considering the report of the Colonial Board. That report the Grand Sec. read to G.L., as in duty bound, but that was all. The Brethren generally therefore had, in the after discussion of it, to rely upon their recollection for a knowledge of its contents, and as some of them were cursed with shorter memories than others, it was impossible that they could carry in their heads all that was read to them. All that he now asked was that, for the future, in order that such a thing might not again occur, all reports should be printed previously to the meeting of G.L., and circulated among the Brethren, so that they might have before their eyes what they were called upon to consider, and judge accordingly. (Hear, hear.) Any Brother who on the last occasion might, from accidentally sitting near the G.M., have obtained a copy of the Colonial Reports, would acknowledge what an assistance it would be to the Brethren in their deliberations, if they were, for the future, to have the same advantage which he then accidentally, no doubt, acquired. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Each Brother would, by that means, have an opportunity of judging for himself, and would not have to trust to his own memory, or to the impression which the reading of the report might have made upon the mind of another. It would be especially useful to the officers of the country Lodges, who would thus have an opportunity of knowing what matters of importance were to be discussed at G.L., so that they might come up either to oppose or to support them, as they might think best. He apprehended there would not be the slightest objection to his motion.

W. Bro. MATHEWS, P.G.W., of Gloucester, then seconded the motion.

W. Bro. HAVERS said, as some allusion had been made to the circumstance of his having an advantage over the other Brethren on the last occasion, inasmuch as he had a copy of the report of the Colonial Board which they had not, he wished to explain that there was in that circumstance nothing unfair or unconstitutional. (Oh! oh!) It had ever been his custom since he became a member of Grand Lodge, if any matter in which he felt an interest was coming on for discussion, to make himself fully acquainted with it. He had therefore been in the habit of going to the G. Sec., and requesting permission to copy the necessary documents; and he had never been refused that permission. He did so on the last occasion, and he had since made inquiry and ascertained that no Brother had ever been denied the same privilege. Of course, if a Bro. made application for leave to copy a report before it was submitted to the Committee of Masters, he would not be allowed to do so; but after it had been so submitted it became in a manner public property, and any Brother might copy it for his own information. There was no necessity for the motion, as the Boards had now the power of printing any matter not libellous they might think necessary for the consideration of the Brethren.

W. Bro. ARLA supported the motion, as he considered it would be

a great service to the Craft in general. It might not be convenient for every Brother to go down to the G.L.—indeed, for the Brethren of the Country Lodges, it would be almost impossible—and copy what documents he might require. If, however, they were printed and circulated among them, it would greatly expedite their decisions.

W. Bro. STARR said, when every Brother might by personal application obtain a copy of any report he might require, it was too much to ask G.L. to do for him that which he could so easily do for himself. If a Brother felt an interest in any matter, and could not find time to make himself acquainted with it, he (Bro. Slight) could not see why G.L. should be called upon to go to the expense of printing some thousand copies of a paper, the contents of which perhaps only one Brother wished to be acquainted with. As to the principle of the thing, if it were carried out they might refuse to confirm the minutes, because they had not in their hands printed copies of them. (Hear, hear.) He would move as an amendment that G.L. should proceed to the consideration of the next business.

A BROTHER here observed, that, as he understood the motion, its great object was, that when called to the discussion of any matter, they might have a perfect knowledge of what it was. (Hear, hear.) It struck him that that would be both most convenient and most proper. It would be above all things convenient to the Country Lodges, as it was of the utmost importance that the country members of G.L. should have an opportunity of knowing the real nature of the matter to be discussed at each quarterly communication.

W. Bro. ROXBURGH opposed the motion, on the ground that reports might contain libellous matter, and that the publication might safely be left to their discretion.

R. W. Bro. DORRIS concurred with the last speaker.

Bro. BEXSON having briefly replied, the motion was put and negatived; and it being past eleven, G.L. was closed in ample form and with solemn prayer.

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTERS.

The December Meeting of the Grand Mark Lodge took place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday the 11th of December: and on account of Lord Leigh's unavoidable absence, was presided over by Bro. Jones, S.G.W.; with Bro. Ridgway, the G. Reg., as S.G.W.; and Bro. Barnard, as J.G.W. The Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens, of the several Lodges, which have now become numerous, attended in their places: and amongst others, were representatives from no less than five of the old immemorial independent Lodges; whom the resolutions passed in the last Grand Lodge had induced to give up their isolation and form parts of this brotherhood of Lodges.

The voluminous minutes of the last Grand Lodge were read; and the only amendment proposed thereon was by

Bro. Barrell, Grand Steward and S.W. of the Keystone Lodge, No. 3; who objected to the confirmation of those resolutions, which admitted the old isolated Lodges on terms of equality with those holding new charters, but with what he considered the unjust privilege of ranking without a number before the numbered Lodges.

Bro. Lambert, Grand Steward, seconded the non-confirmation of this portion of the minutes on the same grounds.

Bro. Ridgway supported the confirmation of the minutes, and defended the resolutions. His Lodge, No. 4, was similarly circumstanced to No. 3; but he reflected that the Craft at the General Meeting in May, and at the Committee thereat appointed, proved that they yearned for a brotherly union of all the English Mark Lodges then isolated. That union, to be lasting, must be equal and just. If equality was admitted between young Lodges and old Lodges, justice demanded that the old Lodges should have the place of honor. This he would claim to be the honest feeling of that Grand body; and to be typified by the Grand Master, in the thorough English sentiments expressed in his published letters on the subject.

Brother Matthews, as an old member for sixteen years of the Kent Lodge of Mark Masters, welcomed these sentiments; the liberal and just terms offered had induced his Lodge to join this union; long might they continue to flourish under the banner they had chosen, and he hoped many other Lodges would follow the example of the Kent.

Bro. Lazarus agreed with everything which had fallen from the two last speakers. He had been a member for thirty-six years of the Royal Cumberland Lodge of Mark Masters at Bath; and had the honor of representing it here this evening, as one of its Past Masters. His Lodge could not have joined the Grand Lodge except on the terms offered, which he must be permitted to consider as honorable to both parties.

Bro. Barnard followed to the same effect. He had listened with great pleasure to the explanation so satisfactorily given by Bro. Ridgway. He had the honor of being Warden of one of the new Lodges; but he could not forget that, in a Lodge whose warrant

dated back into the last century, he had first appreciated the beauties of the degree, fifteen years ago.

Bro. Purdy was gratified to see the feeling which pervaded the G. Lodge exemplified by those who spoke and those who listened. He had the degree conferred upon him in 1823, by the late well-known Mason, Bro. Aldis. Some years after, with the assistance of a talented Brother who had worked the Degree in India, he had done much to establish it under the old Kent warrant. Subsequently that Lodge ceased to meet, but the genuineness of the warrant was forcibly proved to him some months ago by the exhibition of his own signature, which had been endorsed thereon at the period he had first named.

Bro. Jones, in thorough masonic spirit, reminded his Brethren of the emblem of the Lewis. Was it not the duty of the son to bear the burden and heat of the day, whilst he did honor to his aged father?

Bro. Burrell, in reply, must confess that his sentiments were considerably modified by the explanation of Bro. Ridgway: he nevertheless still considered it was a favor to comparative strangers at the expense of our own more immediate connections; seeing however the unanimous feeling of the Brethren, he would withdraw his amendment.

The Treasurer then read his report; and entered into details of the financial position of the Grand Lodge, which were deemed eminently satisfactory.

A report of the proceedings of the General Board was then brought before Grand Lodge by the Grand Registrar, Bro. Ridgway; who also read communications he had received from three independent Lodges, touching the steps to be taken for the purpose of allying themselves with the Grand Lodge.

Bro. Ridgway also, with the permission of the Grand Lodge, read the draft of an agreement, which it was proposed should be entered into, for effecting a union between the Lodges composing the Grand Lodge and a numerous and influential body of Brethren working the degree under warrants which they had accepted from the Grand Chapter of Scotland. He mentioned the fact of his having, in his individual capacity, had the pleasure of ascertaining the sentiments of many Brethren holding high positions in these Lodges; and he could answer for the thorough masonic spirit, with which these Brethren had frankly communicated with him on the subject of the Mark Degree.

Upon the proposition of Bro. Barnard, seconded by Bro. Barker, of Newcastle; it was resolved that the terms of this draft be adopted as the basis, on which more specific arrangements might ultimately be agreed to in respect to the object in view.

The R. W. Grand Master, *pro tem.*, then proceeded to announce the following list of Brethren, as appointed by the Grand Master to the respective offices in Grand Lodge.

Deputy G. Master—Bro. The Earl of Carnarvon; S.G.W.—Bro. Beach, Deputy W.M. No. 7; J.G.W.—Bro. Hearne, P.M. of Albany and Minden Lodge; Chaplains—Bros. Portall, S.W. of Carnarvon Lodge, No. 7, and Woolley, P.M. of the Phoenix Lodge, No. 2; G. Reg.—Bro. Ridgway, W.M. of the Mark Lodge, No. 4; G. Sec.—Bro. Collins, Secretary of the Bon Accord Lodge; S.G.D.—Bro. Barnes, W.M. of the Mallet and Chisel Lodge, No. 5; J.G.D.—Bro. Barringer, W.M. of the Keystone Lodge, No. 3; G. Sup. W.—Bro. Punshon, P.M. of the Northumberland and Berwick Lodge; G.D.C.—Bro. Barnard, S.W. of the Mark Lodge, No. 4; Asst. G.D.C.—Bro. Kiddell, W.M. of the Adam Lodge, No. 6; G.S.B.—Bro. Davy, S.W. of the Fortescue Lodge, No. 9; G.O.—Bro. Lazarus, P.M. of the Royal Cumberland Lodge; G.P.—Bro. Brembridge, P.M. of the St. George Lodge, No. 15; G.T.—Bro. Rice.

Bro. Jones also announced, that the Grand Master was very desirous, in all cases where three Lodges should be established in connection with this G. Lodge in any county, to organize such Lodges into a province, and appoint over them a Grand Master, who should be known to him to be welcome to the Brethren he would have to superintend. The Lord Methuen had done his Lordship the honor of promising his hearty co-operation, as P.G. Master for Wilts; and the following Brethren would also have their commissions issued in due form: For Kent—Bro. Purton Cooper, W.M. of the Leigh Lodge, No. 11; Devon—Bro. Hyshe, W.M. of the St. George Lodge, No. 15; Surrey, Bro. Cole, W.M. of the Hiram Lodge, No. 13; South Wales—Bro. Stanley Stanley, of the Mark Lodge, No. 4; South Australia—Bro. Dr. Kent; China, Bro. Samuel Rawson.

It was understood that Lord Leigh, in refraining from having the emblem of his office of Grand Master embroidered on his Grand Lodge apron, had intended thus delicately to indicate to those who accepted office in the Grand Lodge, that, in his opinion, every position should, as an acknowledgment of services rendered to the Craft, be considered equally honorable. It is greatly to be hoped his Lordship's view will be generally adopted.

Other matters of considerable interest to the Craft were brought before Grand Lodge, and the following merits special attention.

A member of the Grand Lodge announced, that he held in his hand a document, purporting to be a Scottish Grand Chapter Certificate of Exaltation. It stated that a certain Brother had been exalted in the Esk Dalkeith Chapter, No. 42, on the 18th of November, 1857; and recorded in the register of the Grand Chapter on the 19th of November. It stated in French that the Brother had previously entered into the usual obligation. It purported to bear the seal of the Esk Dalkeith Chapter, No. 42, and of the Grand Chapter of Scotland. It purported to be signed by the Officers of the Chapter, including Bro. William Gaylor, who also signed the Grand Chapter Record of the 19th November, as G.S.E., *pro* Grand Recorder. He desired it to be understood that the Brother, to whom this certificate is said to have been issued, assured him he was never in a Scotch Chapter in his life; had never elsewhere, either on the 18th of November or at any other time, been exalted or obligated as certified; and that he had been led into accepting the document by a Scotch gentleman he had met in London, in order that the possession of the certificate might imply to the world (though not stated) that he was a regular Scotch Master, and in a position to apply to the Grand Chapter of Scotland for a warrant to work the degree in England. It was the desire of the Brother who brought the matter forward, that, for the good of Mark Masonry in general and this Grand Lodge in particular, facts purporting to be certified under the seal of the Grand Chapter of Scotland should not be received as facts, until they were otherwise proved, or until the circumstances above stated should be satisfactorily explained.

After considerable discussion respecting the details of this matter, the proposition was unanimously agreed to. The Grand Lodge of Mark Masters, having no communication with the Grand Chapter of Scotland, could take no other direct step in the matter.

CARNARVON LODGE OF MARK MASTERS. No. 7.

A Meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemason's Tavern on the 24th of Sept., when Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon was installed as W.M. by Bro. Ridgway, the Grand Registrar. His lordship nominated Bro. Beach as Deputy Master, and invested Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal with collar of S.W. Bro. Hammerton is the J.W.; Bro. Pollock, Hon. Sec.; and Bro. Ridgway, Treasurer. Amongst the Brethren advanced on this occasion was Brother Sir E. Lechmere, Bt., from whose known zeal and ability in the Craft much may be expected.

PORTESCUE LODGE OF MARK MASTERS. No. 9.

Bro. T. J. Bremridge vacates the chair of this Lodge, and is succeeded by Bro. Captain Trower, the J.W., a very excellent Craft Mason, who was duly elected W.M. for the ensuing year at a meeting of the Lodge held at Southmolton.

THE ST. GEORGE LODGE OF MARK MASTERS. No. 15.

This Lodge, which promises to be one of the most numerous and influential in the West of England, holds its meetings at the Freemasons' Hall, Exeter; and is presided over by Bro. the Rev. John Hynsbe, Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Craft Masons for Devon; Bro. W. Cunn, one of the oldest Masons in Exeter, is S.W.; and Bro. Locke, of Dulverton, J.W. It was some years since the Mark degree was worked in Exeter, but some of the old Mark Masters applied for the St. George warrant.

THE MARK LODGE. No. 4.

On the 19th of November a meeting of *par excellence* the Mark Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Bro. Ridgway, W.M., in the chair. This was the night for election of W.M., and the choice of the Brethren was unanimously in favour of Bro. the Right Hon. the Lord Leigh, who had shown his good will to the Brethren, and desire to participate in the thorough Masonic feeling which pervades this Lodge, by becoming a joining member. His lordship, in accepting the office, intimated that he had recently had a very beautiful piece of Lodge furniture and set of working tools presented to him, the work of Bro. Norton, an architect in Warwickshire; these he would feel a pleasure in presenting to the Lodge as a fitting receptacle for the articles in question. They have since been forwarded to town, and we have had much pleasure in examining their excellent workmanship. The combination of square, level, and compasses in open brass work, forming the frame of a winch for raising great weights to certain heights with the assistance of the lewis, is particularly admirable. At the meeting in question many Brethren were advanced to the degree. Brother Mirza Ali Akbar, Chief Secretary to his Highness the Nawab of Surat, was balloted for and elected a candidate, and will be advanced at the next Lodge meeting.

PHOENIX LODGE OF MARK MASTERS, PORTSMOUTH.

One of the absurd remarks made use of by a Brother named Havers to prejudice the Masonic world against the Mark degree, at a meeting held some months ago, was, that if Mark Lodges obtained subscrip-

tions, the springs of the Masonic charities would be to that extent dried up. This sophistry was exposed at the time; but we have a little incident to confirm its absurdity. An esteemed Brother moving in a good position recently died whilst S.W. of the Phoenix Lodge, leaving his widow and family in a situation little to have been expected. The "dry springs" of his Brethren of the Mark have proved waters of comfort to those he left behind.

MALLEE AND CHISEL LODGE. No. 5.

A meeting of this snug little Lodge was held on the 18th of November, under the mastership of Bro. Richard Barnes, of Hoxton square, the founder of the "Boy's School." Bro. Richard E. Barnes is S.W.; Bro. Harris, J.W.; Bro. Trebeck, S.D. Several Brethren were advanced to the degree, with which they assured the W.M. they were much impressed. Bro. Barnes is one of the oldest members of the Mark degree in this country, and with other Brethren of similar standing and information, much grieved and disgusted at the flippant assumption of the Grand Chapter of Scotland.

ROYAL CUMBERLAND LODGE OF MARK MASTERS, BATH.

A Charter of Confirmation has been recently granted by the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters to the Royal Cumberland Lodge working in Bath from time immemorial. We see that Lord Leigh has been pleased to confer the purple on Bro. Lazarus, an old Past Master of this Lodge.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND BERWICK LODGE OF MARK MASTERS.

This is one of those immemorial Lodges which during the past year have united their individual strength to the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters, receiving a warrant of confirmation. An old and esteemed member of this Lodge, Bro. Punshon, is probably one of the best-informed Masons of the day, not only on the subject of the Mark degree, but also with respect to Templar Masonry; and it would prove a great boon to the Craft as well as a confusion to pretenders, if our Brother would unburden himself on these subjects.

LEIGH LODGE OF MARK MASTERS (No. 11), HELD AT ERITH.

It is rumoured that no less a Masonic star than Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson is likely to shine with undiminished lustre as a seconder of Bro. Purton Cooper's efforts for the enlightenment of this Lodge. Bro. Wilson has shot like a meteor from the darkness of a Scottish constellation, and will now, 'tis said, be visible at Erith, if not at Greenwich, under the English constitution *e fumo dare lucem*.

KEYSTONE LODGE OF MARK MASTERS. No. 3.

This Lodge held a Meeting on the 15th of October, under the direction of its Worshipful Master, so well known and esteemed in Craft Masonry, Brother Thomas Stevens Barringer, who lusted home from Antwerp, and concluded a Continental trip he was making in order to be present at the Meeting.

This Lodge has advanced rapidly since its formation, and is now in excellent working order. The Brethren elected the W.M., Bro. T. S. Barringer, to fill the Chair for another year; and after the Lodge had been closed they sat down to a Banquet, of its kind, seldom equalled, prepared for them by Brother Painter, at "The Ship and Turtle," Leadenhall Street, which is now the fixed place of Meeting of the Lodge. The Arch of Mark Masonry, under the English Constitution, is not likely to give way from any defect in its Keystone.

Masonic Charities.

ROYAL FREEMASONS' BOYS' SCHOOL.

Now that the new building is opened, and the school fairly at work, we hope that the Craft (especially in the provinces) will place such an amount at the disposal of the Committee, as will enable them to extend the advantages of a boarding school to a larger number of children than is at present possible. Out of the seventy now on the books, twenty-five only can be at present boarded; the rest are at day schools as heretofore.

We would venture to suggest to the friends of this Charity in the provinces, that they should bestir themselves in good time, so as to be able to forward a good subscription list to the Festival in March next.

ROYAL FREEMASONS' GIRLS' SCHOOL.

On the 8th of October, the Quarterly Court of the governors of this excellent institution was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Bro. Udall, P.G.S.D., in the chair.

Bro. Crew, the secretary of the Charity, having read the minutes of the last Quarterly Court, which recorded a well-deserved gratuity of £52 10s. bestowed upon himself, in consequence of his many years of fervent and zealous service; and the enactment of a new by-law for increasing the number of inmates from sixty-five to seventy children:

Bro. White, P.G.S., moved that so much of the minutes as referred to the new by-law be not confirmed; as the Charity had £6,000 less stock now than before the building of the new school-

house at Clapham-Rise, the maintenance of which was more expensive than the old one had been; and they consequently ran the risk of having, at some future day, to again bring the number down to sixty-five, if not lower.

Bro. Barnes seconded the proposition.

Bro. Davies said the funds of the Charity were daily on the increase. They were able to fund £1,000 a year. The Festival produced on an average £1,900 each year; and the cost of the additional five children, for whom there was plenty of room, would not amount to more than £100 per annum. He hoped, therefore, the law would be confirmed.

Bro. Binckes took the same view; and added that the new establishment, inasmuch as it was freehold, was less expensive than the old one, and was good value for the money taken from the funds to build it.

The minutes were then, by a large majority, confirmed. The report of the Rev. Mr. Glennie, of the Church Diocesan School Society, was then read, and gave a highly gratifying account of the progress of the children. The treasurer's report stated there was a balance of £1,135 13s. 1d. in hand, liable to a charge of £417 3s. 3d., to defray the tradesmen's bills for the quarter. There was also a charge of £23 10s. 3d. on the sustentation or building fund. A legacy of £25 had been received from the executors of the late Bro. Harraday; and since January £1,000 had been added to the amount of the Charity stock, raising it to £11,000. This report was adopted; and an order made for the payment of all charges, and for the investment of £500, agreeably to the recommendation of the general committee. All the candidates, seven in number, were then declared duly elected. It was in the course of the discussion remarked, that no child approved of by the committee had ever failed of obtaining admission to the School, although many had been disappointed at one or more polls. The proceedings were closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The first monthly allowance of 4 cwt. of coals, and an appropriate quantity of wood, was issued to each of the annuitants in the asylum on the 1st inst., and will be continued on the first Thursday in each month during the winter, out of the monies handed over by the stewards at the late festival.

At a meeting of the Committee held on the 9th instant, the following motion, proposed by Bro. Warren was carried:—"That a festival be held in the course of the year 1858, on a day to be fixed by the Committee." An amendment was proposed to the effect that the G.M. be respectfully requested to appoint a festival once in two years, which was negatived. We think it a pity that the Committee should have thus placed themselves in unnecessary antagonism with the G.M., whose proposal, as contained in Bro. Portal's letter, which will be found under the head of "Correspondence," seems to us a fair and sensible one.

Colonial.

SECESSION OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF CANADA WEST.

An Especial Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Toronto, on Wednesday, the 9th day of September, 1857.

Present: R. W. Bros. Sir Allan N. Macnab, Bart, P.G. Master, on the Throne; Thomas G. Ridout, D. G. Master; V. W. Bros. George W. Whitehead, G. S. W.; John Harding, G. J. W.; The Rev. Septimus Ramsey, G. Chap.; Wm. M. Jamieson, G. Treas.; Nathan Gatchell, G. Reg.; Francis Richardson, G. Sec.; W. Bros. Saml. B. Harman, G. S. D.; William Graham, as G. J. D.; Bro. F. W. Cumberland, G. Supt. Works; W. Bros. Charles Kahn, Asst. G. D. of Ceremonies; Thos. Swinarton, G. Sword Bearer; Bro. H. G. R. Fripp, as G. Organist; W. Bro. W. H. Weller, as G. Pursuivant; Bros. A. W. Sims, and J. B. Cherriman, G. S.; Bro. James Foreman, G. Tyler; R. W. Bro. Thomas D. Harrington, P. G. Master for Quebec and Three Rivers; W. Bro. William Miller, P. M. Albion Lodge, Quebec; and Bro. John H. Richey, Past G. Sword Bearer. Representatives from No. 1, St. Andrew's Lodge, Toronto—V. W. Bro. F. W. Barron, P. M.; Bros. Norman Bethune, S. W.; and Thomas Ridout, J. W.: No. 3, St. John's Lodge, Kingston—W. Bro. Samuel D. Fowler, P. M.; Bro. James H. Rowan, S. W.: No. 4, Belleville Lodge, Belleville—W. Bros. Alfred A. Campbell, J. C. Frank, and F. W. Alport, P. Ms.: No. 5, St. John's Lodge, Cobourg—W. Bro. W. H. Weller, M.: No. 6, Union Lodge, Napanee—W. Bros. B. C. Davy, and Wm. Gunn, P. Ms.: No. 7, Western Light Lodge, Bolton—Bro. Robert Elliot, S. W.: No. 14, Richmond

Lodge, Richmond Hill—V. W. Bro. David Bridgeford, P. M.: No. 18, Ionic Lodge, Toronto—W. Bro. William H. Stanton, M.; Bro. John Blackburn, S. W.: No. 19, United Lodge, Brighton—W. Bro. J. B. Young, M.: No. 20, Ontario Lodge, Port Hope—V. W. Bro. Joseph B. Hall, P. M.; Bro. John Donovan, J. W.: No. 21, True Briton's Lodge, Perth—W. Bros. John Murray, M.; and Robert Douglas, P. M.: No. 23, Corinthian Lodge, Peterborough—W. Bro. D. Sutherland, M.; V. W. Bro. George Cunningham, P. M.; Bro. Vincent Clementi, S. W.: No. 25, Kemptville Lodge, Kemptville—W. Bros. R. Leslie, and R. Waugh, P. Ms.; No. 28, Jerusalem Lodge, Bowmanville—W. Bros. R. S. Manning, M.; and G. H. Low, P. M.: No. 29, Amity Lodge, Dunnville—W. Bro. L. Weatherly, P. M.: No. 30, Rose Lodge, Sandwich—Bro. W. Mercer, S. W.: No. 32, Trent Lodge, Trenton—W. Bro. John Powers, M.: No. 33, Mount Zion Lodge, Borelia—W. Bro. James Baird, P. M.: No. 34, St. George's Lodge, Gosfield—Bro. John Simons, S. W.: No. 35, Composite Lodge, Whitby—W. Bros. Charles Clark, M.; and James Wallace, P. M.: No. 36, Welland Lodge, Fonthill—W. Bros. Isaac P. Willson, M.; George Gamble, P. M.; Bro. Everardo, J. W.: No. 37, St. George's Lodge, London—V. W. Bro. John Harding, P. M.: No. 38, King Solomon's Lodge, Woodstock—W. Bro. Schuyler D. Brown, M.: No. 39, Wellington Lodge, Chatham—Bro. E. B. Donnelly, S. W.: No. 42, Madoc Lodge, Madoc—W. Bro. John Francis, M.: No. 43, Eric Lodge, Morpeth—Bro. Matthew Wilson, J. W.: No. 44, Consecon Lodge, Consecon—W. Bro. Levi C. Bailey, M.: No. 45, Corinthian Lodge, Stanley's Mills—W. Bros. C. Burrill, M.; Joseph Figg, and H. Pearen, P. M.'s: No. 46, Mirickville Lodge, Mirickville—Bro. George Townner, J. W.: No. 47, Victoria Lodge, Port Sarnia—Bro. James Drake, S. W.: No. 48, North Gower Lodge, North Gower—Bro. H. Holden, J. W.: No. 49, Doric Lodge, Ottawa—W. Bro. James Wilson, M.: No. 50, Corinthian Lodge, Ottawa—W. Bro. W. J. B. McLeod Moore, P. M.: No. 52, Simcoe Lodge, Simcoe—W. Bro. M. H. Foley, M.: No. 53, Durham Lodge, Newcastle—W. Bro. J. P. Lovekin, M.; Bro. S. Wilmot, J. W.: No. 54, Stirling Lodge, Stirling—W. Bro. George E. Bull, P. M.: No. 55, St. John's Lodge, Toronto—W. Bro. G. B. Wylie, M.; Bros. William Hay, S. W.; and David Stirling, J. W.: No. 56, Oxford Lodge, Woodstock—V. W. Bro. George W. Whitehead, P. M.: No. 57, Faithful Brethren Lodge, Manilla—Bro. A. Smith, S. W.

Several members of private Lodges were admitted to the G. L. The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened *in due form*, at Eight o'Clock, p. m., with solemn prayer.

The By-laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge were read.

The minutes of the last half-yearly meeting, holden at Toronto on Tuesday the 30th day of June, and at which the independence of the P. G. L. was decided upon, were read and confirmed.

The Committee—appointed at the last half-yearly Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge to confer with any Committee that might be appointed by the self-styled Grand Lodge of Canada, as per Resolution No. 6, for the purpose of endeavoring to arrange terms of union between the two Grand Lodges—reported their minutes, which were received and unanimously adopted; and by which it appeared that they were unable to effect the desired union, owing to the proposals of the self-styled Grand Lodge, amounting simply 'to the Prov. G. L. being admitted into the G. L. of Canada at its next regular Annual Communication, rather than the fusion of the now existing separate bodies.'

The R. W. the Prov. Grand Master was then pleased to address the Grand Lodge as follows:—

"The Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada West having now declared its independence, I, as the representative of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of England, now direct and require, that every Master or Delegate, holding any warrant of a Lodge from the Grand Lodge of England, do now return the same to me, in accordance with the suggestion of the Grand Master of England, contained in his address to the Grand Lodge on the 4th of March last."

Whereupon the Warrants of the following Lodges were handed to the R. W. Prov. Grand Master, by the Masters or Delegates of their respective Lodges:—

"No. 1, St. Andrew's Lodge, Toronto; No. 3, St. John's Lodge, Kingston; No. 4, Belleville Lodge, Belleville; No. 5, St. John's Lodge, Cobourg; No. 6, Union Lodge, Napanee; No. 7, Western Light Lodge, Bolton; No. 14, Richmond Lodge, Richmond Hill (Dis.); No. 18, Ionic Lodge, Toronto; No. 19, United Lodge, Brighton; No. 20, Ontario Lodge, Port Hope; No. 21, True Briton's Lodge, Perth; No. 25, Kemptville Lodge, Kemptville; No. 28, Jerusalem Lodge, Bowmanville; No. 29, Amity Lodge, Dunnville; No. 30, Rose Lodge, Sandwich; No. 32, Trent Lodge, Trenton; No. 33, Mount Zion, Borelia; No. 34, St. George's Lodge, Gosfield; No. 35, Composite Lodge, Whitby; No. 36, Welland Lodge, Font-

hill; No. 37, St. George's Lodge, London; No. 38, King Solomon's Lodge, Woodstock; No. 39, Wellington Lodge, Chatham; No. 42, Madoc Lodge, Madoc; No. 43, Eric Lodge, Morpeth; No. 44, Consecron Lodge, Consecron; No. 45, Corinthian Lodge, Stanley's Mills; No. 46, Mirickville Lodge, Mirickville; No. 47, Victoria Lodge, Port Sarnia; No. 48, North Gower Lodge, North Gower; No. 49, Doric Lodge, Ottawa; No. 50, Corinthian Lodge, Ottawa; No. 52, Simcoe Lodge, Simcoe; No. 53, Durham Lodge, Newcastle; No. 54, Stirling Lodge, Stirling; No. 55, St. John's Lodge, Toronto, (Dis.); No. 56, Oxford Lodge, Woodstock, (Dis.); No. 57, Faithful Brethren Lodge, Manilla, (Dis.)

Resolved unanimously,—“That in true, loyal, and constitutional succession to the late Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada West, a Grand Lodge of Canada be now formed, constituted, and proclaimed, under the title of the “Ancient Grand Lodge of Canada.”

Resolved unanimously,—“That the late Representative of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of England, our esteemed and distinguished Brother, Sir Allan Macnab, of Dundurn, Baronet, be now elected Grand Master of the Ancient Grand Lodge of Canada.”

Resolved,—“That in accordance with Minute No. 7, June 30, 1857, R. W. Bro. Sir Allan Napier Macnab, do name a Committee to prepare a farewell address to the Grand Lodge of England, from which the Masons of Canada, hailing from England, have for so many years been proud to hail, and from which Mother Lodge they now part, with feelings of deep regret.”

R. W. Bro. Sir Allan N. Macnab, was pleased to name the following Brethren a Committee to carry out the above resolution:

R. W. Bro. Thomas G. Ridout; R. W. Bro. Thomas D. Harrington; V. W. Bro. Fred. W. Barron; V. W. Bro. the Rev. Septimus Ramsey; V. W. Bro. Francis Richardson; V. W. Bro. S. B. Harman; V. W. Bro. Fred. W. Cumberland.

Resolved,—“That the form of Dispensation now presented, be adopted, and that the M. W. Grand Master elect, do appoint a Committee, to have the sufficient number prepared for signature and distribution to-morrow evening.

Resolved,—“That the Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of England be now adopted, and that a special Committee of six be appointed to consider and report such modifications as may seem to be absolutely necessary. That the M. W. the Grand Master elect, be requested to appoint such Committee, with instructions to report at the next meeting.”

The M. W. the Grand Master elect, was pleased to appoint the following Brethren a Committee for the above purpose:

W. Bro. J. B. Young, Brighton; W. Bro. Samuel D. Fowler, Kingston; W. Bro. J. C. Frank, Belleville; W. Bro. Robert Lessie, Kemptville; W. Bro. George E. Bull, Stirling; V. W. Bro. Francis Richardson, Toronto.

The Brethren adjourned at Eleven o'clock, p. m., to assemble again at Nine o'clock, a. m., of Thursday, the 10th day of September.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANTIENT GRAND LODGE OF CANADA.

Thursday, September 10th, 1857.

The Brethren re-assembled at Ten o'clock, a. m., R. W. Bro. Sir Allan N. Macnab, presiding.

Resolved,—“That R. W. Bro. Thomas D. Harrington, Prov. G. Master for Quebec and Three Rivers, be accorded the rank of Past Grand Master, in this Grand Lodge.”

Resolved,—“That the Grand Master elect, R. W. Bro. Sir Allan Napier Macnab, be now installed in the Chair of this Grand Lodge.”

The R. W. Bro. Sir Allan Napier Macnab, having vacated the Chair, it was taken by M. W. Bro. Thomas D. Harrington, who in accordance with the above resolution, proceeded to install the Grand Master elect, which, having been done with the accustomed ceremonies, the M. W. Bro. Sir Allan Napier Macnab, of Dundurn, Baronet, was proclaimed and saluted as Grand Master of the Antient Grand Lodge of Canada, in antient form.

The English Book of Constitutions was then adopted *mutatis mutandis*, and G. L. adjourned from Seven, p. m., till Nine, p. m.

In Grand Lodge, re-assembled at Nine o'clock, p. m., the R. W. Deputy Grand Master presiding.

Resolved,—“That a full report, of the minutes of the two last meetings of the Prov. Grand Lodge, and the first sitting of the Antient Grand Lodge of Canada, be printed, and three copies of each, be sent to each subordinate Lodge.”

Resolved,—“That no Brother hailing from this Grand Lodge, shall belong to a Lodge, under the jurisdiction of the self-styled Grand Lodge of Canada.”

Resolved,—“That the thanks of this Grand Lodge are due, and are hereby tendered to those Brethren composing the Committee appointed by the late Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, to meet the Committee of the self-styled Grand Lodge of Canada, with a view to effect an union between the two bodies, for the zealous and able manner in which they performed their duty, in maintaining the dignity and honour of the late Provincial Grand Lodge.”

Resolved,—“That the thanks of this Grand Lodge are especially due, and shall be recorded on the Minutes, to W. Bro. Samuel B. Harman, Past Grand Senior Deacon, and Past Master of St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 1, and Chairman of the Committee nominated, to effect an union of Freemasons in Canada, and to report upon the preliminary steps, necessary for the formation of this Grand Lodge, for his disinterested exertions in preparing and drawing up, for the convenience of the Committee and Brethren at large, the Memorial to the Grand Lodge of England, so much approved of, and setting forth so elaborately the reasons why this Grand Lodge has been compelled to declare itself an independent body, and that the rank of Past Senior Grand Warden be accorded to him.”

Resolved,—“That the thanks of this Grand Lodge are due, and are hereby tendered to V. W. Bro. Francis Richardson, Grand Secretary, for the exemplary manner in which his preparations were made for the opening of this Grand Lodge, thereby enabling this Grand Lodge to complete its work in the shortest possible period.”

The M. W. Grand Master, having entered the Hall, resumed his seat. He then delivered dispensations, under the Antient Grand Lodge of Canada, to the various delegates who had on the previous evening surrendered the warrants of their respective Lodges, the said dispensations to remain in force until regular warrants shall have been granted to their said Lodges.

The Committee appointed to draft a farewell address to the M. W. Grand Lodge of England reported the following, which was unanimously adopted.

“To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

“The Memorial of the ‘Antient Grand Lodge of Canada’ fraternally sheweth—

“That your Memorialists desire that their first address, on assuming the title by which their body is now designated, should be one of affectionate and respectful memorial to that time-honored body, from which it is their proud distinction to hail, and towards whom their feelings of devotion have never wavered, amid the trying circumstances which have led to the assumption of that title.

“That your Memorialists feel a deep pride that the change has been, in every essential, one of the *letter*, not of the *spirit*; that the ‘Antient Grand Lodge of Canada’ is but the maturity of the Provincial Grand Lodge; that to uphold English Masonry, in its integrity, in this British Province, has been the main object in seeking and establishing their present organization; that the Most Worshipful Sir Allan Napier Macnab, Baronet, the distinguished choice of the Grand Master of England as Provincial Grand Master, is their unanimously chosen Grand Master, and is himself the bearer of this their Memorial; that the regulations and constitutions of the Grand Lodge of England continue their unbroken law.

“That your Memorialists appeal, with feelings alike of firmness and respect, to the constitutional course they have adopted in returning the ancient warrants, under which their Lodges were instituted.

“That your Memorialists, nevertheless, desire not to conceal that these Warrants, which they warmly term the sacred charters of their Lodges, have passed out of their hands with feelings of the deepest emotion, and on their restoration, as hereinafter prayed for, their eyes are fondly set.

“That your Memorialists warmly entertain the hope that their new organization may be regarded, as in truth it is, the *creation of a stern necessity*; that the ‘Antient Lodge of Canada’ may be cheered by a recognition from the Lodge of England, dignified and dignifying; and that full Masonic union may be closely cemented and maintained.

“Your Memorialists approach, therefore, the Prayer of this their Memorial.

“That recognition as a Grand Lodge may be the reward of loyalty; which change, necessary to the high interests of Masonry, but otherwise well nigh imperceptible, in no degree impairs.

“That to produce the closest intercourse, representatives from England and to England may be appointed, and take their seats as such in the Grand Lodge of England, and in this, the ‘Antient Grand Lodge of Canada.’

“That our *time-honored* warrants may be returned, to form the proud title pages of our provincial history.

"In conclusion, your Memorialists will ever pray that the rays of heaven may shed their benign influence, producing and reproducing order, harmony, and peace.

"So mote it be.

"Signed, "ALLAN N. MACNAB, Grand Master.
"FRANCIS RICHARDSON, Grand Secretary."

The Grand Lodge was closed in ample form at eleven o'clock, p.m., with solemn prayer.

LIST OF LODGES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE ANTIEN GRAND LODGE OF CANADA.

No. 1, St. Andrew's Lodge, Toronto; No. 3, St. John's Lodge, Kingston; No. 4, Belleville Lodge, Belleville; No. 5, St. John's Lodge, Cobourg; No. 6, Union Lodge, Napanee; No. 7, Western Light Lodge, Bolton; No. 10, Union Goderich Lodge, Goderich; No. 14, Richmond Lodge, Richmond Hill (Dis.); No. 16, St. John's Lodge, Carlton Place; No. 17, St. Francis Lodge, Smith's Falls; No. 16, Ionic Lodge, Toronto; No. 19, United Lodge, Brighton; No. 20, Ontario Lodge, Port Hope; No. 21, True Britons' Lodge, Perth; No. 22, Corinthian Lodge, Peterborough; No. 24, Dalhousie Lodge, Ottawa; No. 25, Kemptville Lodge, Kemptville; No. 26, Wellington Lodge, Guelph; No. 28, Jerusalem Lodge, Bowmanville; No. 29, Amity Lodge, Dunnville; No. 30, Rose Lodge, Sandwich; No. 32, Trent Lodge, Trenton; No. 33, Mount Zion, Borelia; No. 34, St. George's Lodge, Gosfield; No. 35, Composite Lodge, Whitby; No. 36, Welland Lodge, Fonthill; No. 37, St. George's Lodge, London; No. 38, King Solomon's Lodge, Woodstock; No. 39, Wellington Lodge, Chatham; No. 42, Madoc Lodge, Madoc; No. 43, Erie Lodge, Morpeth; No. 44, Consecron Lodge, Consecron; No. 45, Corinthian Lodge, Stanley's Mills; No. 46, Mirickville Lodge, Mirickville; No. 47, Victoria Lodge, Port Sarnia; No. 48, North Gower Lodge, North Gower; No. 49, Doric Lodge, Ottawa; No. 50, Corinthian Lodge, Ottawa; No. 52, Simcoe Lodge, Simcoe; No. 53, Durham Lodge, Newcastle; No. 54, Stirling Lodge, Stirling; No. 55, St. John's Lodge, Toronto (Dis.); No. 56, Oxford Lodge, Woodstock (Dis.); No. 57, Faithful Brethren Lodge, Manilla (Dis.); No. 58, Simcoe Lodge, Bradford (Dis.); Moira Lodge, Belleville (Dis.); St. George's Lodge, Owen Sound (Dis.).

The Grand Lodge of Ohio, having adopted a resolution making a belief in the authenticity of the Scriptures a requisite qualification for initiation, the Committee of Correspondence of Alabama condemn this action, and by a long and able argument prove its impolicy and unmasonic character. It is, indeed, much to be deplored that Masons will sometimes forget the fundamental law of their institution, and endeavor to add to or detract from the perfect integrity of the building, as it was left to them by their ancestors. Whenever this is done, the beauty of our temple must suffer. The landmarks of Masonry are so perfect, that they need and will permit no amendment. Thus, in the very instance before us, the fundamental law of Masonry requires a belief in the Supreme Architect of the Universe; saying, that in matters of religious belief, Masons are only expected to be of "that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves." Under the shelter of this wise provision, the Christian and the Jew, the Mahometan and the Brahmin, are permitted to unite round our common altar; and Masonry becomes in practice, as well as theory, universal. The Grand Lodge of Ohio attempted to amend (as they supposed) the law; and at once the universality of the institution is destroyed, and none but the Christian becomes eligible to initiation. The truth is that Masonry is undoubtedly a religious institution; its religion is of that universal kind in which all men agree; and which, handed down through a long succession of ages from that ancient priesthood who first taught it, embraces the great tenets of the existence of God and the immortality of the soul, tenets which, by its symbolical language, it has preserved from its foundation and still continues in the same beautiful way to teach. Beyond this, we must not and cannot go.—*Masonic Journal*.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

Perhaps the present would be the most opportune period to give a few practical thoughts on the present, and at the same time take a cursory glance at the future prospects of Masonry in the Lower Provinces. We do not profess to be gifted with any extraordinary prophetic visionary powers, but still we cannot blind our eyes to the fact, that, ere many years roll round, many great changes will of necessity take place in the state of Masonry in the Lower Provinces,

both as regards the mode of government and the manner of working. Every intelligent Mason must feel alive to the fact, that the differences which exist in the workings of the several parent Grand Lodges is detrimental to the true interests of Masonry in their colonial dependencies. In the province of New Brunswick, for instance, there are Lodges hailing from the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland; all differing slightly in their mode of working, but yet the essential parts are the same. Now, it does not need any lengthy arguments of ours to show to the Craftsmen generally the difficulty which arises from this state of things. Indeed, we might point to a variety of causes by which the progress of our time-honored Institution is retarded. The difference in working is not the only or the principal cause which prompts us to think of the present and glance at the future. The length of time which elapses before decisions can be had upon questions, which sometimes seriously affect the dearest interests of the Craft, is one of the many reasons which might be adduced to show that the present mode of government is pregnant with many ills, and not calculated to give satisfaction to the provincial Brethren. We will cite one more instance of the evils which exist, and then allow the good sense of the Brethren to supply the remainder. Without further comment we will proceed to view the case. The large amounts which have annually to be forwarded to the parent bodies for various services, keep the Lodges in the colonies with (to use a vulgarism) their noses continually to the grindstone, and thus virtually destroy their usefulness, so far as carrying out many of the prime objects of the organisation in the places where they are more immediately located. What an amount of good might be accomplished with the surplus money which has yearly to be sent away! It is true that much good is accomplished by or with it even now, but the beneficial influence of the money thus appropriated is felt here indirectly. How many orphan schools, and such only like charitable and philanthropic institutions might we not have erected in our midst; and what an incalculable amount of good would thus be accomplished? Some may say: "How is it that you cannot now direct your energies to such undertakings, and thereby alleviate the condition of at least some portion of suffering humanity?" Alas! our energies are paralyzed, and our strength financially is entirely gone. Already the burden is more than we can bear; taxed as we are to the very utmost, in order to support the parent Grand Lodges, and yet compelled to spend the scanty remnant which remains to support and uphold a provincial dynasty—it becomes apparent to the observant eye, that to accomplish any such laudable designs would require more powerful means than we are capable of bringing in force. The question will then necessarily follow: "Why, if this state of things is the cause of your depressed condition, and your inability to exhibit the beneficent objects of the association, do you not seek for or apply a remedy?" It is to this we would now direct your attention, to the consideration of which we would ask you to give heed for a short time. Her opinions may not comprise the universal feeling among the Craft in the Lower Provinces, for we know full well that there are some who, rather than give up place and power and advance with the enlightenment of the age, would sacrifice every feeling of independence and every desire to improve the condition of the Fraternity; but we are convinced that the day is not far distant, when the views which we entertain in regard to the subject will reign predominant in the mind of every intelligent Mason in the colonies. Again, we ask, what is the remedy? Need we paint it in letters of dazzling brilliancy, need we proclaim it in the highways and upon the housetops, before it can be comprehended by the Brethren? We think not. It will be only necessary to point you to Canada for an example. The Brethren there have at last almost unanimously felt a disposition to be up and doing. It was no doubt hard for the parent Grand Lodges to allow such a large number of Lodges as there are in that province to pass from their control, thus entailing a heavy loss, financially speaking; but notwithstanding all this, necessity's stern law must be obeyed; the link which extended across the broad Atlantic has been snapped asunder, and the Masons of Canada have sallied forth under the blue canopy of heaven, and with the banners of *truth* and *justice* gaily floating on the breeze, they fear not the efforts of the oppressor, and freely welcome all who feel disposed to fraternise with them. May we be permitted, then, to predict a similar future for the Lower Provinces? We believe there will be but few dissentient voices when the proper time arrives; but we do not think it would be advisable to adopt the same course pursued by Canada. It will not be necessary to raise the standard of revolt or to fan the flames of insubordination, in order that the war-whoop of battle may echo and re-echo throughout the land. The sword of warfare will remain stationary in the scabbard; and we shall be enabled to gather round the council-fire with our elder Brethren, and there calmly discuss the proba-

bility, practicability, and utility, of allowing the Brethren in these colonies the privilege of governing themselves; and as the voices of our colonial Brethren grow eloquent with the theme upon which they are dilating, while they place before the council of tried and trusty warriors a true statement of facts, at the same time asking for such concessions as will eventually benefit the whole Fraternity, the elder chiefs will see not only the utility but the real necessity of granting the requests of their younger Brethren. They will not ask for any lengthened parley, but will immediately grant the desires of their colonial Brethren; the hatchet of battle will then be buried never again to be uplifted, the calumet of peace will be smoked, and each one shall grasp the other's hand in one silent embrace, and depart. Think not Brethren, while we have been indulging our thoughts for a brief space, that we are running on in an idle strain. "We speak that which we do know, and testify that which we have seen;" and although some portions of our language may be "clothed in imagery," we have endeavored to illustrate our position by "symbols." When the day arrives in which we shall be enabled to raise our heads among the nations of the earth (Masonically), then will be felt the importance of our position. It requires no prophetic vision to foreshadow this happy consummation; and as "coming events cast their shadows before," we suppose that it will not be considered amiss in us to foreshadow a future for Masonry in the Lower Provinces.—*Freemasons' Monthly Monitor, New Brunswick.*

SIR ALLAN M'NAB.—The retirement of the veteran statesman, Sir Allan M'Nab, from public life, which has been for some time expected, is now definitely announced. The universal regret with which it has been received, and the manner in which all political animosities have been at once laid aside, is highly creditable to the public spirit of all parties in Canada, and no less honourable to Sir Allan M'Nab, who now, in the fulness of years and of honours, has retired into private life, with the intention of spending his latter days in the land of his forefathers. Prominent for thirty years in the history of his country—governing and fighting, now in office and now out of it, sometimes heading a triumphant party, sometimes conducting a vigorous opposition, but ever an efficient servant of the state, he has been always loyal and zealous for the well-being and well-doing of Canada, which in him loses a valuable man. Broken health is the cause assigned; but we trust that relief from his incessant duties, and change of climate, may enable the gallant baronet long to enjoy in private life the well-earned honours and distinctions of his active and not inglorious career.—*Canadian News.*

Correspondence.

To the Editor.

Sir and Brother,—Having remarked that you have devoted some pages of your periodical to the subject of Mark Masonry, of which I profess to be an ardent admirer, I have taken up my pen to offer some observations on the subject.

I cannot but lament the schism which at present exists among Masons on account of the Mark Degree, and I have but little doubt that many excellent Brethren lament the circumstances as much as I do; and I fear, from the tenacity of both parties to the schism, that there will be some difficulty in establishing such a union as would be desirable. I wish to respect the views and convictions of both parties, because I expect my own views and convictions to be respected. I purpose to examine the question, taking care to be guided by justice and reason; to avoid dogmatic assertions, and to view the case through the medium of common sense.

I am, Sir, fully acquainted with all the discussion, as it appeared from time to time, in the *Freemasons' Magazine*, and in the *Masonic Mirror*, before its union with the *Freemasons' Magazine*; it will not avail my being told that the Bon-Accord Warrants was *illegally granted*—that might or might not be. I suppose it will not be disputed that the Brethren who founded the Bon-Accord Lodge of Mark Masters *legally received* the degree; if so, what is there to hinder them from proceeding as they have done? There is no authority in England to prevent them, the Grand Lodge of England (I cannot help saying) unhappily having rejected Mark Masonry altogether.

Some years since I took the Mark Degree, as a Member of the Craft Lodge, to which I belonged, which Degree I afterwards discovered had been conferred on me "without any warrant from a superior body."* I, of course could have no certificate; such has

been the practice in other Lodges I have no doubt; and now comes the question, *Where is the superior body?* We are told by some, the Grand Chapter of Scotland: and I may infer, I think, from the following quotation, that the Grand Lodge of Ireland is a *superior body*; the quotation is from the *Freemasons' Magazine*, October, 1857, p. 833—"That the R.W.M. should postpone any further discussion, till it had been authoritatively ascertained from the *Grand Lodge of Ireland*, whether the Master of the Craft Lodge was *ex officio* Master of the Mark Lodge connected with it." Here there is a difference; in one Masonic kingdom, if I may be allowed the expression, the Grand Chapter is the *superior body*; in the other Masonic kingdom, the *superior body* is the Grand Lodge.

Now, Sir, I can understand very well the Grand Lodge of Ireland being a *superior body*, as Mark Masonry is essentially of a Craft character and a part of Craft Masonry; but by what authority, or how, the Grand Chapter of Scotland, or any other Grand Chapter, can claim to be a *superior body*, I cannot understand; I therefore ask for some explanation on this point; I do so from a sincere desire for information, as it appears to me to be somewhat anomalous for a Grand Chapter to possess the power to grant warrants for the establishment of Lodges, in which a degree was to be conferred that is essentially a Craft degree.

It appears also that no Mark warrant can be obtained from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, "without a warrant for a Craft Lodge as a basis,"* "that," as Bro. Sharman observes, "is out of the question." To what *superior body* then are Mark Masters desirous to form a Lodge in England to apply? Bro. Warren would say, to the Grand Chapter of Scotland; this I would not consent to do, until the anomaly of a Grand Chapter assuming the power to interfere with a Craft degree be satisfactorily explained.

Much has been written, and doubtless much has been said that has not been written, concerning the formation of a Grand Lodge of Mark Masters in London, by Brethren belonging to the Bon-Accord Lodge. This Grand Lodge has been termed "*upstart*," "*sham*," "*spurious*," "*usurpation*;"† are these Masonic terms? do they savour of charity and brotherly love? Bro. Sharman is milder in his expressions, he uses the term "ill-advised," as reported at p. 835 of the *Freemasons' Magazine* for October last: but in the same number of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, "One of the Committee," formed on the 30th of May last, by the Meeting of Mark Masters, convened by Lord Leigh, condescends to be *personal*, by stating, that he believes "*that the only object of the so called English Grand Lodge is to minister to the vanity of the Noble Lord and a few Brethren, by usurping titles to which they have no claim*;" and then goes on to inform us, "*that the certificates of the Leigh Grand Lodge are not acknowledged, either in Ireland, Scotland, or the United States.*"

I, Sir, can find no trace of Masonic feeling in such (may I say) vituperative language, let those Brethren who use or approve it have what opinions they may; I consider they only injure Masonry in general, by indulging in language inconsistent with the benignant spirit of our ancient and honorable Institution.

In the *Masonic Observer* for June last, page 3, we read—"If Mark Masters find themselves unable to work in a Craft Lodge, owing to the veto of the Grand Lodge of England, they are at perfect liberty to work separately, and to form Lodges wherever a sufficient number of Mark Masters can be assembled to do so. Or, they may, if they please, do as the four London Lodges did in 1717—meet together and constitute a united body under the name of a Grand Lodge."

There being then no *superior body* in England, is it a *crime*, an *offence*, an *impropriety*, a *usurpation*, for the Members of the Bon-Accord to have formed among themselves a Grand Lodge of Mark Masters? Their rank in life, their position in society, are not incompatible with such a proceeding. Are we not called upon by Masonic principles to give them credit for far better motives than those of "*ministering to the vanity of the Noble Lord, and to that of a few Brethren?*" But, to our subject. Why should we not have a *superior body* in England? The Grand Lodge of England has declared its negation of Mark Masonry. Can we suppose that those English Mark Masons, who have sworn allegiance to the Grand Chapter of Scotland, think they may *ultimately* prevail on the Grand Lodge of England to acknowledge Mark Masonry? And if Grand Lodge did so acknowledge it, as to sanction it—although I do not know Lord Leigh, having never even seen him—yet I doubt not, under such circumstances, "*the vanity his Lordship is charged with would not prevent him from abandoning his so-called usurped Grand Mastership as promptly and as speedily as the Grand Chapter*

* *Freemasons' Magazine*, October, 1857, p. 835.

† *Freemasons' Magazine*, July, 1856, p. 502.

* *Masonic Observer*, June, p. 3.

of Scotland *would withdraw* the warrants they have granted to English Mark Masters, as Br. Sharman says *they would do* under such circumstances."

It cannot be said that this act of the Bon-Accord Lodge interferes with any other *authority or superior body* in England; and this, I think, is a fact that greatly favours such a proceeding. In what, then, consists the objection to the formation of a Grand Lodge of Mark Masters in England? The Grand Chapter of England have declared through a Committee that Mark Masonry has nothing to do with the Royal Arch; the Grand Lodge of England have ignored it: where, then, are English Mark Masters to look for a centre? Scotland has its Grand Chapter, Ireland has its Grand Lodge: what then, I again ask, are the objections to the formation of a Grand Lodge of Mark Masters for England? I should feel grateful to any one Brother Mark Master to state them: I ask this question in all sincerity, as I wish to be guided aright.

I wish it to be distinctly understood, I find no fault with those Brethren who have obtained Charters from the Grand Chapter of Scotland; I freely admit their *right* to arrange themselves under a foreign banner; the *expediency* of doing so is a very different question; nor am I aware that *any one* questions that *right*, the *expediency* alone can be the subject; but is it politic, is it wise?

Why, then, cannot there be a union of the Mark Lodges? Does perfection exist in either party to this unhappy schism? Are they not both composed of frail, erring mortals, influenced by all the whims and caprices of our common human nature? Masonry is of too pure a character to be *stained* with such doings, and to be as it were *mocked* by such deeds done in its name.

Let us for the future strive to unite, bearing and forbearing; let us forget these irritating circumstances; let there be no divisions among us; but rather let us do all that we can to promote "the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace."

I fear I have intruded too much on your time and space; but I feel strongly and deeply the importance of the subject; and with a fervent prayer that Masonry may spread and that its benign principles may pervade and animate every heart,

I subscribe myself,

Yours fraternally,

A MARK MASTER.

To the Editor

Sir and Brother,—I should be glad to be permitted to explain my reasons for withdrawing the two motions which stood in my name, and which several Brethren had been good enough to attend in G. L. to support.

As regards the Benevolent Institution, I was favored with an interview by the G.M. when he very kindly stated his willingness to promote a Festival of that Charity once in two years, in place of triennially as at present, should the Committee of Management think it desirable. This being so, I thought it would best conduce to the interests of the Institution, if I at once acquiesced in this arrangement: and should it take effect, I can only express my earnest hope that so excellent and deserving a Charity may meet with increased support from the Craft at large. I have served two Stewardships this year, and if Stewards are wanting, shall be very ready to serve again at the first biennial Festival.

With respect to the return from the P.G.M.'s of Berkshire and West Lancashire, I was given to understand in G.L. that continued applications would be made, till the one (out of the two) which had hitherto been withheld should be forthcoming.

I am, Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

G. R. PORTAL, P.M., 460, &c.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir and Brother,—I shall feel obliged by the insertion of the following remarks in reference to the question at issue between Bro. Havers and myself, which unfortunately occupied so large a share of the discussion in Grand Lodge of the 2nd inst.

On the minutes of the last G.L. being put for confirmation by the M.W.G.M., I rose to move—"That so much of the minutes as referred to the rejection of a portion of the report of the Colonial Board be not confirmed;" and I was allowed to proceed uninterruptedly with my argument, until the departure of H. R. H. Prince Frederick William. Immediately after this, Bro. Havers addressed me, stating that the motion which he had made at the Q.C. of September was not for the *rejection* of any part of the report of the Colonial Board, but for the *reception* of a portion of such report. I

confess that this still appears to me, as it did then, to be a "distinction without a difference;" and I endeavored to prove it to be so, but failed to impress my views upon the ruling authorities, who, adopting Bro. Havers' version, pronounced a decision adverse to my proceeding. I will not now make any allusion to what followed, but will confine myself to the main point of difference.

The business (at which I was not present) in G. L. of September 2nd, was reported, as usual, in the two accredited organs of the Craft: and on reading the account, I felt that a great slight had been passed upon the Colonial Board, by the omission of certain paragraphs, which were objected to on grounds that appeared to me to be utterly untenable; and I determined to make an attempt to obtain a reversal of the decision which G.L. had arrived at. I state this, merely to convince those who profess so much dread of "party" movements, that I acted without concert or arrangement of any kind.

Now without referring further to the reported proceedings of the last G.L., as given in the *Freemasons' Magazine* and in the *Masonic Observer*—both of which refer to a proposition for omission—let me direct attention to the authorized report emanating from the Grand Secretary's office, which, unfortunately for me, I had not seen at the time of raising this discussion.

"W. Bro. John Havers pointed out where the Board had transgressed their functions. The duties of the Colonial Board, like those of other Boards, were of an executive character, &c., &c. He therefore moved that the two first and three last paragraphs be received, adopted, and entered on the minutes; but that the rest of the report, namely, paragraphs 3, 4, 5, and 6, be not received."

I confidently submit, that this satisfactorily establishes the basis upon which my arguments were founded; and that it affords sufficient justification of any complaint that I was somewhat unfairly dealt with, and forced into a position which was productive of confusion, waste of time, and an amount of excitement which I regret as much as any one. As regards the latter result, however, it is not to be concealed, that it was in a great measure occasioned by an irritating parade of an influence, the existence of which appears to me as unconstitutional as its exercise is unseemly.

These remarks have already exceeded the limits I had proposed, or I would enter on a defence of the report of the Colonial Board; taking special exception to the manner in which Bro. Havers has prejudged the main question by assuming the whole point at issue, when asserting that "the Board had *transgressed their functions*." I forbear trespassing on your space for the present.

I am, Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

FREDERICK BINCKES, P.M. No. 11.

London, 10th December, 1857.

To the Editor

Sir and Brother,—Can any of your readers who may be up in ceremonial inform me why the usual order was departed from at the reception of the Prince of Prussia in Grand Lodge, and precedence given in the procession to the Grand Wardens over the Provincial Grand Masters, their superior Officers?

I am, Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

A PROVINCIAL MASON.

FREEMASONRY IN RUSSIA.—The last striking innovation that has been made on Russian prejudices, and religious feelings, by the reforming spirit of the present Emperor, is the toleration accorded by him to Freemasonry in Russia. The society of Freemasons has hitherto been strictly prohibited from constituting itself on the holy soil of Russia; the *employes* of the state were always required to bind themselves never to belong to it; and the Greek Church has laid an anathema upon it. For more than half-a-year, however, 'Lodges' have been forming in the interior of the empire, and entering into correspondence with other Lodges in foreign countries; and there are indications of different kinds that this phenomenon in the Russian state is far from unwelcome to the powers that be. Two results are, as it would seem, expected from the benevolent working of this society, viz., a better spirit on the part of the various government functionaries, and a greater willingness to co-operate in the gigantic task the government has entered upon of commuting serfdom into a free relation of landowner and tenant. I believe I shall not be far wrong in imputing this change of tactics to the "Society of

Free and Accepted Masons," on the part of the Emperor Alexander, to the influence of his uncle, the Prince of Prussia, who has for many years belonged to it; and, in despite of the disinclination of his brother, the king, towards it, has persisted in having his son, Prince Frederick William, also introduced to it. Some few years back this formed the subject of a very acrimonious conflict between the two brothers, the whole body of the Lutheran Church party siding with the king in reprobating the existence of the society; and about that time it transpired that the then Grand Duke Alexander had requested information on the subject from the Prince of Prussia, and received from him a very able and somewhat lengthy paper on the subject. At the beginning of the year the King of Hanover entered the Society, and after passing rapidly through the grades, was admitted a member of all the Lodges in his dominions, and was finally made Grand Master in Hanover. He had already, in 1852, constituted himself the protector of the society; but it was not until January in this year that he entered the body itself, and attained the same rank his father, the late King Ernest Augustus, had occupied in it previously. Up to that time Frederick the Great was the only reigning monarch who had entered the society; but since the entrance of the King of Hanover, the reigning Duke of Saxe-Gotha has entered it, and been made a member of the Lodge, "Ernst zum Compass."—*Times*.

Reviews and Notices.

Proceedings of the P. G. L. of Canada West, and of the Antient Grand Lodge of Canada. Toronto, September, 1857.

This pamphlet gives a clear and detailed account of the steps which have been taken in the erection of the P. G. L. into an independent G. L.; and we feel bound to express our decided opinion that, however much we may regret the course adopted, there can be no doubt as to its strict legality.

Hampshire; being Two Lectures delivered by the Earl of Carnarvon. Routledge, 1857.

These lectures, which were delivered in the Town-hall at Basingstoke, fully maintain Lord Carnarvon's character for eloquence and historical knowledge. We give an extract upon the value of local associations:—

"In England, after you have drawn the broad distinction of town and country, the county is the unit and centre of social and political organisation. Within its boundaries we are, for many purposes, an independent and self-governing community. To us these histories and traditions are no meaningless tale. They are a commentary on the present, they explain the associations of property and family, the interchange of mutual respect and kindly offices religiously handed down from father to son. And further, as by a general law human affections grow in intensity just as you reduce the circle of their operations, so historians have truly pointed out that small states are the happiest, large states are the most powerful and prosperous. Our constitution, practically adapting itself to this double principle, gives us all the social happiness of the small state, and the power and prosperity which result from living under one great and undivided government. Whilst it upholds the unity of the whole, it also maintains the vitality of each distinct part. By the separate organisation, by the individual life of each county, it creates and fosters local affections, and sympathies, and duties; by our common law and legislation, by our race and language, by the varied skein of our history, interwoven with the triumphs of the past, the anxieties of the present, and the hopes of the future, it knits us together as an undivided and indivisible people, and gathers up each scattered ray of light into the common halo of national glory and devotion. To this great end each local feeling and affection subserves. They not only adorn but they also strengthen the pillars of our state: and let each and all of us, whatever may be our several spheres of action, remember that in honoring our county we are directly honoring our country; in doing our duty by Hampshire, we are doing our duty by England, by that constitution which has been truly said to be the envy and admiration of all people, the pattern of the politician, the theme of the eloquent, the meditation of the philosopher, the pride and the consolation of the Englishman, by which he lives and for which he is ready to die. For my own part, I can only rejoice in any opportunity which affords me the occasion of offering my tribute, however slight, to a county to which I am bound by so many ties of duty and affection as I am to Hampshire."

Advertisements.

MASONIC QUARTERLY PAPER.

THE MASONIC OBSERVER AND GRAND LODGE CHRONICLE is published on the 20th of March, June, September, and December; and contains a full Report of the proceedings in the previous GRAND LODGE, as well as Articles upon the various subjects affecting the welfare of the Craft.

It is intended to meet a rapidly increasing demand for fuller information upon matters of *general*, as distinguished from *local*, interest.

The actual condition of Masonry at home and in the Colonies, its policy, the measures required for its progress and efficiency, as well as the state of its Charities, are the subjects principally noticed.

The great success that has attended the establishment of this Paper, leads the Proprietors to hope that it will be recognised as a useful medium of information, as well as of mutual communication, by the Craft at large.

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