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GRAND LODGE was presided over by the M.W.G.M., and there was a very large attendance of Brethren.

The Rev. Bro. PORTAL, opposed the confirmation of the resolution confining the jurisdiction of the G.L. of Canada, to Canada West. That G.L. had always claimed *both* provinces, and they had passed a vote refusing to admit any limitation of their just claims.

LORD HOLMESDALE ably seconded the motion, which was opposed by Bros. GREGORY and SLIGHT, two expectants of the purple, who repeated the speeches which they delivered at the last G.L.

Bro. WHITMORE was averse to making an offer which it was known the Canadians would not accept. He believed the Executive were acquainted with these facts before last G.L., if so, they had acted most improperly in concealing them from G.L. This dilemma clearly shewed the folly of their precipitancy.

Bro. BINCKES thought they should rescind a resolution which forced upon the Canadians that which they refused to accept.

Bro. HAVERS said that the G.L. of Canada accepted the recognition that had been offered, but wished their limited jurisdiction extended; this the G.M. was prepared to grant.

The motion was then negatived.

Bro. WHITMORE, in a very clear and able speech, drew the attention of G.L. to the refusal of the G.M. in December, to put his amendment that the building scheme of the Board of General Purposes, should be referred to a special committee, in place of to themselves. A law had been made in September and confirmed in December, permitting any relevant amendment to be made to any report before G.L. and yet the G.M. had refused to put this amendment which he maintained was relevant, thereby invading the prerogatives of G.L. The worthy brother was frequently interrupted during his speech by the partizans of the Executive, to whom truths so honestly told were no doubt both strange and unpalatable.

The M.W. GRAND MASTER said he was confident that his decision had been correct. The constitutions gave to the Board of General Purposes, the direction of these matters which it was proposed to entrust to a special Committee, but this involved an alteration of the law, which could only be done after regular notice.

The correspondence between the G.L. and the G.L. of CANADA was then read, and the G.M. stated his mind thereupon. He said that he was prepared to recommend G.L. to concede the jurisdiction over Canada East, that

he believed the P.G.M. of Quebec would resign, and if the English lodges still existing were acknowledged, he would engage that no new warrants would be issued from England. He would himself undertake the necessary negotiations for placing matters on an amicable footing, or a special G.L. would be summoned for conducting them if it were desired.

Bro. GREGORY lamented that the Canadians did not exhibit as much "suavity" in their correspondence as did the G. Secretary; he proposed that the G.M. should be empowered to conduct the negotiation.

How is it that the worthy brother was so silent upon the late letters to Bro. HARRINGTON, issued from the G. Secretary's office? or do they come up to his ideas of "suavity?"

Bro. BEACH, M.P. seconded the motion.

Bro. WHITMORE protested against the motion being put without notice at the Board of Masters.

Bro. HAVERS said the matter was within the constitutional jurisdiction of the G.M. (this was not the question, but whether a distinct motion might be made without due notice).

Bro. BINCKES felt that there was no use in protesting against any course however illegal, which the Executive had determined to adopt; but what they were now about to do themselves, they had prevented others from doing six months ago, under precisely similar circumstances.

Bro. DOBIE wished the motion withdrawn.

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

A letter from Bro. TOBY returning the warrant of lodge No. 781, Tasmania, was read, and the G.M. stated that he hoped to be able to place matters upon a satisfactory footing.

G.L. was closed at eleven o'clock. p.m.

THE Grand Lodge Agenda Paper for the 1st of September last, contained a letter from Bro. HARRINGTON, late P.G.M. for Quebec, addressed to the G. Sec., with the reply of the latter, and prefaced thus:—"The following letter from Bro. HARRINGTON, and its reply, are printed by command of the M.W. Grand Master, for the information of the Craft." What more natural than to suppose that letters of such importance, thus formally laid before the Craft by command of their supreme head, were legitimate subjects for consideration? Bro. the Earl of CARNARVON and Bro. WHITMORE, however, both attempted unsuccessfully to comment upon

the correspondence, being prohibited from doing so in consequence of notice of motion not having been given at the Board of Masters, though just previously, on the very same evening, a vote of confidence in the G.M. was pressed and allowed to be put, of which no such notice had been given, and which arose out of a subject not even alluded to in the paper of business.

On the Agenda Paper for Grand Lodge of the 2nd inst., appeared the following notice:—"The M.W. GRAND MASTER will lay before G.L. the communications that have passed between himself and the Grand Lodge of Canada since the last Quarterly Communication, and will state his views thereon." These communications, unlike those referred to in September, which were in print and in the hands of every member of G.L., were read in MS. by the Grand Sec., and their purport therefore could only be imperfectly gathered; and yet, will it be believed that without the (as previously ruled, and previously neglected) required notice at the Board of Masters, a motion was proposed and carried with reference to these communications, though the attention of the G.M. was specially directed to his ruling on the former occasion? We must however in fairness mention, that in the first instance the motion was made by the opponents of the Executive, while in the last, it was brought forward by their own partizans.

Now we would humbly ask, under such circumstances as these, who is to blame for the scenes so pathetically deplored, which take place from time to time in G.L.? A despotism conducted on a fixed system *may* be submitted to, but a capricious tyranny is unendurable. It fosters faction; and is directly chargeable with, and responsible for, whatever vices or crimes may be committed under its rule.

We do most unfeignedly believe that the G.M. deeply regrets the present dissensions, and for their existence is only to be considered liable, inasmuch as to the pain and regret of hundreds of the brethren whose loyalty to his office is unquestioned, his lordship appears to have wholly resigned himself to the influence of a Camarilla, from whose trammels he has but to free himself, and to act by the dictates of his own generous nature, in order to restore peace and harmony, and, by imparting unity, promote efficiency.

Our duty has often been a painful one, and in discharging it we may occasionally have rendered ourselves amenable to censure. Happy shall we be, if, for the future, duty and inclination may be harmoniously blended.

**S**UFFOLK again; *usque ad nauseam* SUFFOLK; *vide* the *Magazine passim*. An ambitious young man of olden time, stole, we are informed in story, fire from heaven, and was fettered to a barren rock in perpetuity as an expiation of his theft. But what crime have our friends of the *Magazine* committed, that they are so remorselessly tied to the sands of Suffolk? Their readers, at least, will acquit them of any recent importation of celestial fire into their hebdomadal lucubrations.

And yet they cannot break the bonds that link them to Suffolk and its most loyal Prov. G.L.

The *Magazine* of Feb. 23rd is before us: we learn that the county renowned for Punches, has been up and doing again. As the Trojan horse was pregnant with mailed men, so groans the White Horse at Ipswich in the parturition of orators. This last Prov. G.L. was convened in obedience to a clause of the by-laws which enables such to be done whenever special circumstances or the good of the Craft may require it. So said the D. Prov. G.M. at its close: "and what more crying exigency (he might have proceeded to ask) could there be, than the opportunity it has offered of reviving last summer's contention and singling out a brother for abuse?" So two resolutions were passed to testify to the M.W. the EARL OF ZETLAND the sentiments of sympathy which seven long months of thoughtful incubation had hatched within them; and one to repudiate the term of "sickly sycophancy" as applied to their demonstration last autumn. We hope that for the former resolutions his lordship will be duly grateful. *Sera nunquam est*, &c. As regards the latter one, if Bro. BINCKES used the epithet "sickly," as depreciating the intensity of their feelings, we own it appears to have been misapplied.

What if these brethren call another meeting to throw more dirt at us? Well, we shall be used to it pretty well by then, but the Society for the prevention of cruelty must really look after the poor old White Horse at Ipswich.

Pass we to the Prov. G.L. of Cambridgeshire, which is reported to have been convened on the 10th of January. The gratuitous absurdity of these sympathy meetings could hardly be more typically personified than it is by the chief spokesman on this occasion. From no less oracular lips than those of a Grand Chaplain of England, the despotism of the press has immortalized a farrago of the most imprudent nonsense that ever degraded an adulator or the innocent victim of his homage. We leave to the contempt of honest men the gross want of candour evinced in quoting from our pages an article antagonistic to the M.W.G.M., while the hearers are referred to "that excellent publication the *Freemason's Magazine*" for his lordship's answer to it, the insinuation being that we denied to that reply the accuracy of report and fair publicity which the words of the M.W.G.M. merit, and have always obtained at our hands. But, when we find Bro. Ward abandoning, as if untenable, the high ground of public right or wrong, and calling upon his hearers to afford a blind and undiscriminating support to the Executive, as LORD ZETLAND'S *private friends*, because forsooth he once attended a lodge meeting at Cambridge and appointed to a G. Warden's chair in violation of the Constitutions, a young and noble brother initiated in that Lodge; we are not more amazed at the unblushing effrontery of the advocate, than at the toleration extended to him by the court before whom he held his brief. These arguments are hardly worthy of Cambridge. The M.W.G.M. and common sense share between them the insults they

convey. But the R.W. Prov. G.M. is, we rejoice to see, about to interest himself in the reintegration of the School of Plato Lodge. We heartily recommend this school or any other, where the elements of language and reasoning may be taught, to the notice of his reverend Deputy.

THE Circular issued by the Board of General Purposes, is now before the Craft, and has probably already received a tolerable amount of consideration. It is drawn up with clearness and ability, and the writer makes no attempt to conceal his own bias. What he wishes to see is a Masonic Club House, which may vie in its completeness and appearance with any of those at the West end.

The idea is not amiss—and what we have to consider is, its practicability and its expedience. As regards the latter question, it is narrowed to this simple issue—do we desire more entire centralization than we have at present? As it is, the London Brethren have a preponderating influence in the affairs of the Craft—G.L. is composed almost entirely of them. They elect the G.M. and the Boards—do we wish to spend our invested capital in increasing this power ten-fold?

There can be no question that suitable offices ought to be provided for the G.M. and the G. Secretary, and perhaps, for the Secretaries of the Charities, though it is doubtful how far it may be wise to compromise their present independence, by placing them in any measure under the indirect influence of the Executive. There is again no doubt but that Lodge rooms ought to be provided, which should be worthy of the purposes to which they are devoted, and which should be retained exclusively for them. But we are not prepared to go farther than this. If the tavern is to be abolished in place of improved, in the first place, a great pecuniary loss must certainly result to the Craft, that is, to the Country Lodges, who are as 500 to 100 in London—and who will benefit by such an arrangement? The London Brethren, almost exclusively. For they being on the spot, will have the Club practically to themselves. But supposing the Country Masons to consent to spend their money in building a Club for the Londoners, how is the victualling department to be managed? Is it to be by a house steward? If so, by whom is he to be appointed? If by G.L. or by the Executive, which comes to the same thing, does not every one who knows anything of G.L., know perfectly well that every question of complaint will be made a party question by the Executive, that the Dais will affirm on every occasion by triumphant majorities that their nominee is just the man for his place—his wines sound, and his viands tender and well cooked?

A library of reference, to which admission must be free, and at which appointments might be made, would doubtless be a great convenience. But a newspaper room common to the G.M. and his tailor, would be scarcely a convenience to either; while the select Club-room, hinted at by the Board, from which the tailor

should be excluded, and to which the peer and his friend should alone be admitted, would doubtless be a far preferable place of *re-union*, but hardly to be erected with the tailor's money.

We believe then, that laying aside all theories of centralization, the most suitable building for the Craft to erect, would be one which should combine good offices, and Lodge-rooms, with a roomy and well ordered tavern, upon which the Craft should have a prior claim for accommodation.

Meanwhile, however, we must not forget that the Boys' School is putting in its claim for some of that money with which Bro. HAVERS is so blandly proposing to play ducks and drakes.

WE trust that matters are in a fair way of being satisfactorily settled with the G.L. of CANADA, but there has been a narrow escape from a fresh complication.

The advisers of the G.M. were in such a ludicrous hurry to recognize those whose objects they had previously been never weary of misrepresenting, and whose rising independence they had in vain tried to crush, that they actually neglected to ascertain the extent of jurisdiction claimed by the new G.L., which they were pleased to imagine only extended to Canada West.

The necessity under which they lay of taking the wind out of Bro. PORTAL's sails, will, of course, account for this very unbusiness-like precipitancy, the effect of which is, that the G.L. of England, having been called on by its EXECUTIVE to make certain specific concessions in December, is forced to double them in March; besides which, unless we are very much mistaken, the G.M. will have to revoke the appointment of a P.G.M. of Quebec.

All these undignified proceedings might have been saved, if those who claim to manage our affairs, had made themselves previously acquainted with them. As it was, however, they acted very wisely in at once acknowledging their error, and giving up all claim to Canada East, as well as West—and we trust that the G.M. will shortly be able to announce that the most perfect cordiality and good understanding exists between the Grand Lodges on either side of the Atlantic.

We wish things looked as well in TASMANIA. There however, the P.G.M., whose appointment without the concurrence of the senior Lodge of the Province, was, in the first instance, a fatal mistake; seems, in a fair way, by his egregious want of tact and conciliation, to create a schism, which may not impossibly be the first step towards the formation of an independent G.L.

That Bro. TOBY has acted illegally in surrendering the warrant of his Lodge, without the unanimous consent of its Members, is unquestionable. That he has been provoked beyond endurance by a succession of petty aggravations on the part of his P.G.M. is not less so. The best that can be hoped is, that the M.W.G.M. will at once enact the part of a *Deus ex machina*, and still the troubled waters, by taking the aggrieved Lodge under his own immediate jurisdiction.

THE *Freemasons' Magazine*, which has for a long time been in a failing condition, has been bought by the Executive.

THE CONSTITUTIONS of the G.L. of CANADA are before us. They are founded on our own, with some great improvements however, among which may be reckoned the election of the P.G. Masters by their P.G. Lodges, and the appointment of a certain proportion of Grand Officers, by the G.L. Both these provisions are necessary for the independence of G.L. and of the P.G.L.'s

THE able report of Bros. LYALL and SYMONDS shows that the CENTRAL CHARITIES are not supported as they ought to be by the Provinces.

It must, however, be borne in mind, that so long as the Country Masons are taxed with their expences to, from, and in London, before they can take any part in the Government of the Craft, they have less money to spend in aid of the Charities than their more favoured London brethren. While those who object to centralization, like the G.L. of Devon, may not unfairly think that local Masonic Charities have an equal though not a greater claim, with those in London upon their support.

THE unprecedented success that has attended the first Biennial Festival of the BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION, and which is owing not more to the ability of the Chairman, than to the just popularity of the Charity, leads us to hope that it will henceforth be placed on a par with the others, by an Annual Meeting.

WE rejoice to see that a desire is spreading among the leading MARK LODGES meeting under Scotch Warrants, for union with the Mark G.L. of England.

#### UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

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##### QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION.

On the evening of the 2nd inst., the usual quarterly communication of the United Grand Lodge of England, was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, the M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland on the throne; supported by Bro. Sir Lucius Curtis, Prov. G.M. for Hampshire, as D.G.M.; Bro. Portal, G.J.W., as G.S.W.; Bro. Fenwick, P.G.S.W., as G.J.W.; Bro. S. Tomkins, G. Treas.; Bros. the Rev. E. Moore and Rev. Arthur R. Ward, G. Chaps.; Bro. Francis Roxburgh, G. Reg.; Bro. Harris, P.G.D., President of the Board of General Purposes; Bro. William Gray Clarke, G. Sec.; Bro. Henry L. Cowlin, G. Sec. for General Correspondence; Bro. W. Pulteny Scott, S.G.D.; Bro. Hopwood, J.G.D.; Bro. S. W. Dankes, G. Sup. of Works; Bro. Jenning, G.D.C.; Bro. Albert W. Woods, Asst. G.D.C.; Bro. Ll. Evans, P.G.S.B., as G.L.B.; Bro. Farfield, Asst. G. Sec.; Bro. Jos. Smith, G. Prust.,—; Bros. the Marquis of Harrington, Prov. G.M., Derbyshire; A. Dobie, P.G. Reg. and Prov. G.M., Surrey; Purton Cooper, Prov. G.M., Kent; H. Vernon, Prov. G.M., Worcestershire; Capt. Clarke, Prov. G.M., Victoria; H. A. Bowyer, Prov. G.M., Oxfordshire; — Fawcett, Prov. G.M., Durham; Bro. the Chevalier B. Helcler, Rep. from the G. Lodge of Berlin; Bros. Dundas and Pattison, P.G.W.'s; Bros. the Rev. Sir W. Hayes and Rev. J. E. Cox, P.G. Chaps.; Bro. the Rev. W. H. White, P.G. Sec.; Bros. Philippe, Fandel, Potter, Nelson, Hervey, J. N. Tomkins, and S. B. Wilson, P.G.D.'s; Bro. T. Chapman, Asst. G.D.C.; Bros. Le Veau, Walsley, Charles Elkington, Spiers, and Mason, P.G.S.B.'s; Bro. Brielting, P.G. Purst., &c., &c.; there being about three hundred Brethren present.

The minutes of the last Grand Lodge having been read,

The M.W. Grand Master said—Brethren, before I put the minutes for confirmation, I wish to make one or two remarks in relation to what passed at the last meeting of Grand Lodge. Before doing that, however, I beg to inform Grand Lodge, that I have received a letter from the D.G. Master stating that he is at present in a state of deep affliction at the loss of his only brother. You will all, I know, sympathise with him in his sad affliction, and deem it quite sufficient excuse for his absence from Grand Lodge. At the last Grand Lodge a question was asked me by Bro. Savage, which I promised to take into my consideration, and answer at this Grand Lodge. The question which Bro. Savage asked me was, whether it was competent for a brother, on the motion for the confirmation of the minutes, to move in regard to any particular resolution on those minutes that it be divided, that is, that we should adopt one part, and not adopt another? It is a case which has never in my recollection occurred before, except on one occasion, when I may say Grand Lodge was taken by surprise. I promised Grand Lodge that I should give the question my best consideration. I have, therefore, since thought over it, and wished to guide my opinion by parliamentary practice in analogous cases; but I find our practice here is so little analogous to that which is pursued in the legislature, that I could derive no assistance from parliamentary usage. I have had, therefore, to consider what would be for the convenience of Grand Lodge, and have come to the conclusion, that it would be very inconvenient to permit such a practice, and, unless under a positive order of Grand Lodge, I should not like a resolution to be divided. It must be passed as a whole, or rejected as a whole. I have come to this conclusion, because it is the one most convenient to Grand Lodge; and I believe the brethren will, when they consider the subject carefully, find out that the determination at which I have arrived, will best suit the convenience of all parties in carrying forward the business of Grand Lodge. I now put the minutes of the last Grand Lodge for confirmation.

Bro. Rev. G. R. PORTAL said, it was his painful duty to move the non-confirmation of so much of the minutes as related to the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada West. His reasons for doing so were, that when the Canadian brethren received the notification of the resolution passed at the last Grand Lodge, they immediately met, and refused to accept a favour which limited the jurisdiction of the new Grand Lodge to Canada West, whereas the two provinces had, by the acts of the imperial and colonial legislatures, become fused into one ever since 1843, while in all their official acts and arrangements, the Grand Lodge of Canada had laid equal claim to the jurisdiction over both West and East. At this moment there were only six Lodges in Lower Canada, holding from the Grand Lodge of England, and some of these were very shaky in their allegiance, while the Grand Lodge of Canada had twelve. He was not aware whether the information which had been supplied to him, was in the hands of the Executive, before the last Grand Lodge, but if so, Grand Lodge was, he thought, unfairly treated in being called upon to pass a resolution giving only limited jurisdiction to the new Grand Lodge. If it had not been in their hands at the last meeting of the Grand Lodge, he was sure the resolution would not have been adopted, and it only showed the wisdom of the advice which he had given them, to wait and see how they could most effectually hold out the right hand of fellowship to their Canadian brethren. The only step which was now consistent with the dignity of Grand Lodge, was to refrain from offering to the Masons of Canada what they would not accept at the hands of Grand Lodge.

Bro. Lord HOLMESDALE seconded the motion of Bro. Portal, as it was not right that meeting should insult the Canadian Brethren, by confirming a proposition which they had formally declared they could not accept, and thus throw down the apple of discord between the Craft in both countries.

Bro. GREGORY considered that the motion of Bro. Portal was most inopportune. They had on the paper a notice that the M.W. the Grand Master was about to communicate to Grand Lodge the correspondence which had taken place between himself and the Canadian Brethren. He wished, for the sake of regularity in Grand Lodge, that Bro. Portal had reserved his observations on the subject until Grand Lodge had heard what the W.M. the Grand Master had to lay before it. What they had heard from Bro. Portal, they would, he thought, have heard better and more appropriately from the M.W. the Grand Master. He denied that the Canadian Masons looked upon the resolution of last Grand Lodge in the light of an insult; but it must, he thought, be a matter of astonishment to all the Brethren, both here and in Canada, to find that the very Brother who, on the last occasion, had on the paper a notice of motion tantamount to the resolution then placed before them by the M.W. the Grand Master, should be the one who now proposed

that they should rescind it. He wondered if the worthy Brother would have moved that they should rescind his own resolution? He (Bro. Gregory) saw no reason why Grand Lodge should stultify itself in the way proposed, by blowing both hot and cold upon the question, and placing themselves in a false position. He regretted that Bro. Portal and his friends, who objected to the confirmation of the minutes, had not waited until they heard the proposition which was about to be presented to Grand Lodge by the M.W. the Grand Master, one which, whilst, we believe, it secured the dignity of Grand Lodge, would also conciliate the feelings of the Canadian Brethren. Not to confirm the resolution agreed to in December last, would be indeed to throw down the apple of discord.

Bro. WHITMORE wished to know where lay the larger amount of stultification, whether in refusing to confirm a resolution hastily adopted at last Grand Lodge, or in confirming the recognition of that which the Grand Lodge of Canada would not accept at their hands. Nothing could more clearly show the wisdom of the advice given them at last Grand Lodge by Bro. Lord Carnarvon, and the advantage of delay than the present discussion. He was one of those independent members of Grand Lodge who, on that occasion, stood up and opposed precipitancy. He fully agreed with the remarks of the noble lord who seconded Bro. Portal's motion, that to confirm the resolution on the minutes would be an insult to the Canadian Masons, and it was, he thought, impossible that Grand Lodge should so far degrade itself as to recognize that which the Grand Lodge of Canada did not thank them for, and would not accept. He hoped Grand Lodge would exercise its wisdom, discretion, and judgment, and decline to take that course. With regard to what had fallen from Bro. Portal, he (Bro. Whitmore) believed, that in December last, all the facts of the case were in possession of the executive, and that being the case, it was to be regretted that they had not communicated them to Grand Lodge. If it was not true, let it be stated so, and he was ready to apologise; but if it were true, then he would advise Grand Lodge not to commit the indiscretion of confirming that upon which they resolved without a full knowledge of the real facts of the case. (Cheers.)

Bro. SLIGHT approved of the observation of Bro. Gregory, that it would be far better to confirm the minutes at once, and wait for the discussion of this question until they heard the communication which, in accordance with the notice on the minutes of their proceeding, the M.W. Grand Master was about to place before Grand Lodge, because it was obvious that there was among those at the other end of the room a difference of opinion as to facts. As to the real question there was no point of doubt whatever, however great the attempt might be to involve it in obscurity. The plain state of the case was this:—In December last, the M.W. Grand Master, in this room, made a motion that the Grand Lodge of Canada should be recognized. That motion was opposed, and they all knew by whom, and most of the Brethren would recollect how astonished G. Lodge was at hearing the opposition come from such a quarter. However, notwithstanding that opposition to the motion, Grand Lodge came to the unanimous resolution, that the Grand Lodge of Canada should be recognized. That was the great fact on which they had determined. It now appeared, from some papers received from Canada, that on some points of detail, not of principle, there was a difference of some sort or other which could be easily adjusted. He therefore hoped the Brethren would confirm the resolution recognizing the Grand Lodge of Canada, although that recognition might now be opposed by those who had formerly voted for it; and that they would not allow their minutes to bear the record that they had refused that recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada which would be approved of by every Mason in England. (Cheers.)

The Rev. Bro. PORTAL said in reply, that Bro. Slight seemed to impugn the truth of the statement he had read relative to the resolutions passed by the Grand Lodge of Canada. He did not choose to offer any explanation to that brother—but he considered it due to the G.M. to state that the resolutions he had read, were verified by the signature of Bro. Harrington, P.G.M., of Canada.

Bro. BIRCKES admired the ingenuity, but not the moral, of those who sought to make the worse the better side. The Canadian Brethren refused to accept a limited jurisdiction for their Grand Lodge at the hands of the Grand Lodge of England (no, no), and under these circumstances, he considered Bro. Portal fully justified in moving the non-confirmation of the resolution giving them that jurisdiction. They had sent to Canada what they considered a boon to the Brethren there, but the billows of the Atlantic had cast it back upon them with contempt. With what show of reason, justice, or judgment could they refuse to rescind a resolution which forced upon their Brethren in Canada what they had refused to accept? He therefore hoped that, out of a proper deference to

the feelings of the Grand Lodge of Canada, they would, when asked to confirm that resolution, unanimously answer, No! (Cheers and laughter.)

Bro. HAVERS said he had heard with more amazement than he could well express, the course of proceeding that evening, advocated by the Brethren at the further end of the room. He would venture to lay the whole case, divested of verbiage, before Grand Lodge. He never denied, and he would never deny, that the Masons of Canada had had to complain of grievous short-comings upon the part of Grand Lodge; but he would not now stop to enquire where lay the blame. The result however, was, that their Canadian Brethren felt themselves compelled to throw down their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England. In that country, where we had once nearly 100 Lodges, the great majority of them had left our banner. This change naturally created some excitement, but so soon as union was restored in Canada, the Grand Lodge of England acknowledged and recognized the independence of the Grand Lodge of that country. It was now attempted to be shown, that the Canadian Brethren refused that recognition. On the contrary, they accepted it, and thanked Grand Lodge for the promptitude it had displayed in making it. If the Brethren had been content to wait—to spare their taunts upon the Executive—until they had heard the correspondence, and looked at the dates of that correspondence, they would have seen that such was the case. In that correspondence, they pointed to the fact that Grand Lodge had limited their jurisdiction. (Grand Lodge had done so, and had done it with its eyes open. The Canadian Brethren now asked Grand Lodge for what Grand Lodge was most willing to grant, namely—to give the greatest possible opportunity for the spread of Freemasonry. They all now understood that the jurisdiction which the Grand Lodge of Canada claimed, was one extending over both provinces, and it was reasonable that it should have it. Out of the hundred Lodges of Canada, which formerly hailed from the Grand Lodge of England, there were only two (not six) in Canada West, and only four (not twelve) in Canada East, which now acknowledged the authority of the Grand Lodge of England. The two provinces, formerly divided, had been united since 1843, and were now one territory. It was for these reasons that the Masons of Canada asked the Grand Lodge of England to grant to their Grand Lodge, Masonic jurisdiction over all that country in which there were now so few English Lodges. He would now ask the Brethren if they thought it consistent with the dignity and honour of Grand Lodge, to maintain a nominal sovereignty over a territory in which it had no Lodges. They were all anxious, for the welfare of Masonry, to see new temples rise for solemnization of its mysteries, its principles spread, and never to limit it to the narrow ground under the jurisdiction of any particular Grand Lodge. Canada had spoken, and spoken with a loud voice, upon this question; and within the last four-and-twenty hours, a most courteous and fraternal letter had been received by M.W. Grand Master from the Grand Master of Canada, asking Grand Lodge to re-consider this question. If Bro. Portal had only allowed the M.W. Grand Master to state—that in that kindness of feeling by which he was actuated to our Colonial Brethren, he was prepared to remedy whatever error of description they had fallen into at the last meeting of Grand Lodge, and grant the independent Grand Lodge of Canada a jurisdiction co-extensive with the Canadian territory—the Brethren would have been spared all the useless discussion which had taken place. (Cheers.)

Bro. HEARNE here remarked that the M.W. Grand Master had that night ruled, that no part of the minutes could be separately confirmed or rejected; and was proceeding to found some argument upon the rule, when the M.W. Grand Master interposed and said, he had never laid down any such rule. If he had not been understood, he was perfectly willing to state his opinion over again. (No, no.)

After a few words of explanation from Bro. Rev. G. R. PORTAL, in which he stated his information was founded on a communication containing the resolutions passed at a meeting of the Grand Lodge of Canada, signed by Bro. Harrington, P. Prov. G.M. for Quebec, the M.W. Grand Master put the amendment of Bro. Portal to the vote, and declared it lost by a large majority—an announcement which was received with loud cheers.

Bro. WHITMORE then moved another amendment to the effect that the resolutions, referring back the report of the Board of General Purposes upon tavern accommodation, and allowing them to expend £800 in prizes for plans and other expenses for the proposed arrangements should not be confirmed. He was willing to admit that, as a general rule it was not expedient to interfere with the confirmation of resolutions which had been fully deliberated upon, but there were occasions, and that was one of them, when it might be desirable for Grand Lodge to re-consider its determination.

That Grand Lodge might understand and appreciate his motives it would be necessary for him to call their attention to some of their proceedings in December last. It would be in the recollection of some of the Brethren present that the resolutions in question were not proposed until a late hour of the evening, and indeed the President of the Board of General Purposes in moving them himself, apologized for the lateness of the hour at which he brought them forward. It would also be in the recollection of the Brethren that when he (Bro. Whitmore) moved as an amendment to the second resolution, referring the subject back to the Board of General Purposes, that it should be referred back to the Board of twelve members, six to be nominated by the Board of General Purposes, and six by Grand Lodge. That amendment was proposed in perfect accordance with a resolution of his own, carried at a former meeting of Grand Lodge and confirmed not two hours before, in which it was declared lawful for any Brother to propose, without previous notice, any amendment having distinct reference to the business before them. It could not be denied that his amendment had distinct reference to the resolution which he moved, but the Most Worshipful Grand Master was pleased with the advice of the Dais, and after a loss of a quarter of an hour spent in a consultation, to decide that it was not competent for him to move that amendment. He (Bro. Whitmore) had upon that occasion stated that although he bowed to the decision of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, he at the same time protested against its injustice, and he now stood forward to defend the cause he had taken, and to repeat the expression of his opinion that the decision was not a just one. (Murmurs of disapprobation.) When he said it was not a just decision he disclaimed any intention of being offensive, but it was right they should call things by their proper names. He had to urge against that decision two objections. The first was that it was inexpedient to refer so important a matter as that mentioned in the former resolution to a fluctuating body like the Board of General Purposes, and the second was, that inasmuch as his amendment had been made in accordance with Masonic law, he had by reason of the M.W. Grand Master not putting it, been deprived of his right as an independent member of Grand Lodge. The M.W. Grand Master said that it was incompetent for him to move his amendment, because it trenchanted upon functions of the Board of General Purposes. The rule of the Book of Constitutions which gave the Board of General Purposes the direction of everything relating to the buildings and furniture of Grand Lodge, stated that no extraordinary expense of any kind should be incurred without the previous sanction of Grand Lodge. That last sentence justified his amendment, as it showed that Grand Lodge had the power to direct the Board of General Purposes. Was it not then very extraordinary, that on the very first occasion on which he proposed to act upon the law of Grand Lodge in reference to amendments having a direct bearing upon the business before them, he should have been met by the M.W. the Grand Master with a refusal to put his motion? He maintained that on that law he was perfectly justified in making the proposition he had made, and he defied any brother present, by any amount of sophistry, or any amount of special pleading, to prove that he was not so justified. The very first resolution of Bro. Havers recognized the principle for which he was contending, namely, that Grand Lodge was competent to refer the consideration of the matter to any other body as well as the Board of General Purposes. He saw that Bro. Havers shook his head, but still the case was so, and innumerable instances might be quoted to prove that Grand Lodge had at all times possessed a power of supervision over the proceedings of the Board of General Purposes. (Hear, hear.) He knew there was a vast deal of business to be that evening disposed of, and he was therefore unwilling to further occupy their attention; nor would he at all have trespassed upon their time, were it not that on his conscience and on his soul he believed the prerogatives of the independent members of Grand Lodge were perilled. (Laughter.) He could now refer to a period of twenty-five years spent in Masonry, and he boldly asked any one to point to a single act of his inconsistent with the tenets of the Craft. He cared for no man's displeasure, and he courted no man's favour, and so long as he had power to do so, he would stand up, if he were to stand up alone, and support the privileges of the brethren in Grand Lodge. If Grand Lodge now confirmed the resolutions to which he objected, they would give the executive the power to put whatever interpretation they wished upon the laws of the Craft. (No, no.) He must be met by better arguments than "no! no!" and he should like some brother to prove to him, that the G.M. had the power to say that he would not put an amendment which was in perfect conformity with Masonic law. Taking the assumption that he was not justified, he would ask them, were they prepared to confirm the

minutes? (Time! time!) Brethren might cry "time, time," but in debating a matter like that before Grand Lodge, time was well spent; and if he occupied six or ten evenings and succeeded in preserving the privileges and prerogatives of the independent members of the Grand Lodge, he should feel the time had not been wasted, but that he had conferred a benefit upon the Craft.—(Laughter.) He wanted to know if it could be made apparent to him, that the Grand Master was justified in refusing to put his amendment. He took his stand on the Book of Constitutions, and asked Grand Lodge to decide whether he was right or wrong.—(Cheers.)

Bro. GEO. BARRETT seconded the amendment.

The M.W. GRAND MASTER then said, Brethren, as I have been asked certain questions by Bro. Whitmore, and as my decision upon a motion of his has been impugned by him, it is my duty to rise to answer his questions, and give him the explanation he asks. I assure you I shall not occupy one-tenth the time which he has done, and I hope to answer his questions, and confirm the justice of my decision in a manner that few members of Grand Lodge will question. Some I have no doubt will. (Laughter.) I adhere entirely to my decision, and I am prepared to justify it. (Cheers.) Indeed, there is no one decision of mine, of the justice of which I am more confident, and I shall now very shortly lay before you my reasons for it. Bro. Whitmore moved a resolution to add certain members to the Board of General Purposes, for the purpose he has mentioned to you. The law says that the Board of General Purposes has the direction of every thing relating to the furniture and building of Grand Lodge; and the next clause says, that the Board has likewise the care and regulation of all the concerns of Grand Lodge. Now, brethren, I maintain that it was not competent for him to move such an amendment without first rescinding those laws. Bro. Whitmore quotes the Book of Constitutions, that Grand Lodge alone has the inherent power of enacting laws and regulations for the government of the Craft, and of altering, repealing, and abrogating them, always taking care that the ancient landmarks of the Order be preserved. That clause is the ample justification of my decision. I do not deny the right of Grand Lodge to make what alterations it may please with regard to the powers of the Board of General Purposes, or of any other Board; but I do say, that in order to have enabled him to put his amendment, he should have looked to this law, and regularly proposed the appointment of a new Board, to take charge of the furniture and building of Grand Lodge, before he ventured to take that power from the Board of General Purposes. (Cheers.) If my interpretation of the law is not the correct one, I must give up all attempts to interpret the laws of the Craft; but as I have already said, I feel more confident of the justice of this decision, more than any other I have here laid down, and I still hold myself confidently to that decision.

Bro. BINCKES was proceeding to address Grand Lodge, when—

The M.W. GRAND MASTER interposed and said, I put it to Bro. Binckes, whether, after my decision has been impugned and that I have explained it, it is right for him to continue to discuss it.

Bro. BINCKES considered this a great constitutional question, involving the rights of the Craft, else he would not have ventured to take part in the discussion of it. The Most Worshipful Grand Master had thought it right to quote words from the Book of Constitutions by which he wished to be judged, but if he read the words that followed those which he had quoted, and considered them, he would, he thought, come to a different opinion.

Bro. ROXBOURGH rose to order. The M.W. Grand Master ruled that a certain interpretation of a certain law was the correct one, and had explained his reasons for doing so, and the Brethren were therefore bound to yield obedience to that decision. If the law was so ambiguous as to admit of a second interpretation, their duty was to amend it, but no brother had a right to occupy the time of Grand Lodge in canvassing the decision of the Grand Master.

Bro. BINCKES regretted Bro. Roxbourg had not waited for a few minutes to hear his (Bro. Binckes's) observations.

Bro. ROXBOURGH held that Grand Lodge could not discuss the propriety of the Grand Master's decision, and he hoped his lordship would, if it were persevered in, exercise his authority and put it down at once.

The M.W. GRAND MASTER:—I may perhaps save the time of Grand Lodge by anticipating Bro. Binckes and reading the remainder of the clause to which he has referred. It is as follows:— "The Grand Lodge has also the power of investigating, regulating, and deciding all matters relative to the Craft, or to particular Lodges, or to individual Brethren, which it may exercise either of itself, or by such delegated authority as in its wisdom and discretion it may appoint." Now, there is nothing there about the building and furniture, and as it says nothing of taking away from the Board of

General Purposes its powers and functions, I look upon the objections to my ruling as utterly futile. I, as Grand Master, lay down the law, and if any Brother objects to my ruling, let him give notice of motion to alter the law itself. (Cheers.)

Bro. BINCKES then stated that, in deference to his Masonic allegiance he should forbear to further discuss the matter, but as a man and as a Mason he protested against the decision of the Worshipful Master. (Oh, and laughter.)

The minutes were then confirmed, with only three or four dissentients.

#### THE ELECTION OF THE GRAND MASTER.

Bro. CROMBIE then said, Brethren, I had the honour at the last meeting of Grand Lodge to nominate our M. W. Grand Master for re-election, and I now rise to propose to you a resolution which will be carried unanimously, without amendment. It would be useless for me to dwell upon his lordship's merits and high qualifications for the office, as you are all aware of his business habits, his urbanity, his firmness, and, above all, his uniform good temper. I hope that we may long have the opportunity of re-electing him to that chair, where I hope he will ever enjoy that confidence of the brethren which will enable him to preside over the Craft with comfort and satisfaction to himself. I propose that the Right Hon. Thomas Dundas, Earl of Zetland, be our Grand Master for the ensuing twelve months.

Bro. BOHN seconded the proposal of Bro. Crombie.

Bro. Sir LUCIUS CURTIS, as Deputy Grand Master, put the motion, which was carried by an overwhelming majority (amidst loud cheers), only eight hands being held up for the contrary.

Bro. JENNINGS, Grand Director of Ceremonies, then proclaimed the Right Hon. Thomas Dundas, Earl of Zetland, Lord Dundas, a Baronet of England, Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the North Riding of Yorkshire, &c., &c., as M. W. Grand Master for the ensuing twelve months, and called upon the Brethren to salute him in the usual manner.

The M. W. GRAND MASTER, having so received the salutations of the Brethren, said, Brethren, as there is much important business to be disposed of this evening, I should think myself very ungrateful for your kindness, if I were to interpose by a long speech between you and it. I most heartily thank you for the kindness with which you have so long regarded me, and for the confidence which you have again and again reposed in me. Believe me, Brethren, my most anxious desire is to work for the benefit of Grand Lodge, and for the welfare of the Craft in general.

#### GRAND TREASURER.

Bro. Barrett then proposed that Bro. Saul Tomkins be re-elected Grand Treasurer.

Bro. SYMONDS seconded the proposition, which was carried *nem. con.*

#### GRAND LODGE OF CANADA.

The M. W. the GRAND MASTER next said, Brethren, before I express to you my views upon the question of the Grand Lodge of Canada, I shall call on the Grand Secretary to read to you the whole of the correspondence, including an un-official letter from the Grand Master of Canada addressed to myself, and which, though in some respects private, I feel justified under the circumstances in laying before you.

The Grand Secretary here read the following correspondence:—

“Freemasons' Hall, London, Dec. 16th, 1858.

“Dear Sir and R. W. Brother,—Your letter of the 13th November, with enclosures, arrived here on the 30th, and I immediately laid them before the M. W. Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, who had just reached London, in order to attend the Grand Lodge on the following day.

“You are aware, that by our laws it is ordered that no business shall be brought into discussion in the Grand Lodge, without notice being previously given at the General Committee, which meets on the Wednesday fortnight before the quarterly communication; but the Grand Master having heard that a communication was likely to be forwarded, announcing that arrangements had been made for the junction of the two previously existing ruling Masonic bodies in Canada West, and his lordship being desirous that if such a communication did arrive, it might immediately be taken into consideration, directed notice to be given at the General Committee, on the 17th November; that in case of official intimation being received of the establishment of a Grand Lodge of Canada, he would bring forward a motion having reference to that body, with a view to its recognition, should circumstances justify such a course.

“Although the circumstances under which the Grand Lodge of Canada has been formed have been before the Grand Master in an

unofficial form for some months past, the late period at which the official notification arrived, might have justified delay; still his lordship, feeling strongly the desirableness of some conclusion being arrived at without waiting a period of three months, and the tenour of your communication leading him to the belief that the new Grand Lodge of Canada was actuated by a spirit of truly Masonic feeling, and enlarged views for the welfare of our cherished Craft, did not hesitate to suggest, for the consideration of the Grand Lodge, the following motion, which was adopted, with a cordial and Masonic confidence, viz., ‘That official intimation having been received of the formation of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in Canada, this Grand Lodge recognizes that body as an independent Grand Lodge having jurisdiction over the province hitherto known as Canada West, and expresses its desire to entertain hereafter with it such a cordial and fraternal intercourse, as will serve to promote the interests of Masonry in both countries.’ And a resolution was unanimously passed, that the M. W. Grand Master be requested to communicate in appropriate terms to the Grand Lodge of Canada the resolution to which the Grand Lodge had come upon the question.

“Acting upon these resolutions, the M. W. Grand Master commands me to say that he most cordially extends the right hand of fellowship to the W. M. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, formed by the junction of the late Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, and the Independent Grand Lodge of Canada, and acknowledges the independence of that body.

“As however there are some few Lodges in Canada West who have signified their desire to retain their attachment to, and indicate connection with, the Grand Lodge of England, from whom they received the warrants, the Grand Lodge and the Grand Master feel that they are not at liberty to withdraw their protection from such Lodges against their will, and therefore claim for them from the Grand Lodge of Canada recognition of their present position with all their Masonic privileges, and those of their members respectively. The M. W. Grand Master feels that this is simply an act of justice, and based on the same principle as that enunciated in your communication of the satisfaction which an affectionate parent would derive from the well doing of a son who, having arrived at years of maturity, and settled in a foreign land was able to manage for himself without abating in the slightest degree his filial love; for in the same way that affectionate parent would derive satisfaction in assisting and protecting another son who was anxious to remain with him, nor ought that parent to compel him to quit his household while he was desirous of continuing in it.

“From a perusal of the document forwarded by you, the M. W. Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of England distinctly understood—and they as distinctly stipulate—while making this recognition of the independence of the Grand Lodge of Canada, that the districts of Quebec, Montreal, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, (Provinces now under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England), form no part thereof; and that their Provincial or District Grand Officers, and the officers and members of the subordinate Lodges, and their several acts and certificates, and the certificates and acts of the Grand Lodge of England in regard to them shall be recognized by the Grand Lodge of Canada, and its several Lodges, with that cordial good will and fraternal feeling which alone can maintain the honour, the unity, and the advantages of the great Masonic family in its various branches and varifications throughout the nations of the earth.

“I have the honour to be, dear Sir and R. W. Brother,

“Yours faithfully and fraternally,

(Signed) “WM. GRAY CLARKE, G. Sec.

“Thos. B. Harris, Esq., Grand Secretary,  
“Grand Lodge of Canada.”

“Grand Lodge of Canada, Grand Secretary's Office,

“Hamilton, C. W., 24th January, 1859.

“Dear Sir and Right Worshipful Brother,—I am commanded by the M. W. Grand Master to transmit you the endorsed extracts from the minutes of a special communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada, held at Toronto on the 19th ult., in reference to your letter of the 16th December, 1858.

“The spirit which actuated Grand Lodge in coming to this resolution, and which is clearly shown in its terms, was, a sincere desire for the ultimate peace and harmony of the Craft throughout the province, and the members of Grand Lodge from the eastern districts were the most anxious that the resolution in question should be adopted.

“It is hoped that the action of the Grand Lodge of England will not be such as to revive and perpetuate in Canada those distinctions made in former times by arbitrary territorial boundary lines which

were never of any benefit, and whose moral, by judicious enactment of the imperial and provincial legislatures, has been of the greatest advantage to the province.

"I have the honour to remain, Dear Sir and R.W. Brother,  
 "Yours faithfully and fraternally,  
 "Wm. Gray Clarke, Esq., "THOMAS B. HARRIS,  
 "Grand Sec., Grand Lodge of England." "Grand Sec.

[ENCLOSURE].

"Grand Lodge of Canada, Grand Secretary's Office,  
 "Hamilton, Canada West.

"Extract from minutes—

"The letter from the Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England, of the 16th December, 1853, having been read, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"Be it resolved—'That whilst the Grand Lodge of Canada notes with pleasure the word 'recognition,' contained therein, and the promptitude of the Grand Lodge of England with reference thereto, they are under the necessity of calling attention to an error with respect to their territorial jurisdiction in making the proffered recognition apply to Canada West, and they therefore await the re-communication of the same, made perfect in this respect.

"It may be named that the Grand Lodge of England properly excludes Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as they form a part of Canada, but are irregular in applying such exclusion to Canada East, as the Grand Lodge of Canada embraces the entire province of East and West or Upper and Lower Canada, which were united into one province in 1843.

"The Grand Lodge of Canada merely desires to allude to the well recognized principles of Masonic jurisprudence, that 'more than one Grand Lodge cannot exist in the same kingdom, state, or territory, without destroying that unity which must be admitted as forming the basis of all Masonic legislation.

"A true copy.

"Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Lodge at Hamilton, the 24th day of January, A.L. 5859, A.D. 1859.

"THOS. B. HARRIS, Grand Sec."

"Grand Lodge of Canada, Office of the Grand Master,  
 "Simcoe, C.W., 9th February, 1859.

"Most Worshipful Sir and Brother,—Impressed with the belief that in all your Masonic acts you have ever been prompted by an anxious desire to promote the best interests of the Order; believing also, that from the high esteem with which you are regarded, not only by the Masons of England, but by the Craft generally in all parts of the world, that you will take a large and liberal view of all matters affecting the prosperity and general standing of our Order; and professing at the same time, on my own part, an earnest desire to perpetuate, on a correct basis, the principles, practice, and tenets of Masonry on this Continent, I have ventured, in the true spirit of fraternity, to address you personally, in the hope that a frank, although necessarily brief statement of facts, may have a tendency to remove certain impressions which appear to exist in your lordship's mind, with reference to the present condition of Canadian Masonry. Without, therefore, referring directly to the more immediate causes which led to the organization of the Grand Lodge of Canada, there was a consideration which, I may state incidentally, powerfully impelled the brethren here to take that important step, and that was a desire to be in a position to imitate the noble example set by the Masons of England, in the establishment of their benevolent institutions for charitable and educational purposes; in order to enable them to take the necessary steps to secure this most desirable object, and fully believing, at the same time, that the best interests of Masonry would be advanced and secured by the establishment of an independent Grand Lodge, the Masons of United Canada, without any diminution of paternal regard or respect for those Grand Bodies from which they formerly hailed, declared their masonic independence; the propriety and correctness of this proceeding has now been generally admitted, and the results already arrived at, prove conclusively the wisdom and policy of the course.

"In that part of our province called Upper Canada, there are, I believe, only two Lodges at present working under English warrants. In Lower Canada, in the district of Quebec and Three Rivers, there are only three; and these are all located in the city of Quebec. In the district of Montreal and William Henry there are only four English Lodges, and these are all in the city of Montreal; three of these latter Lodges were represented at the convention, and took part in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada. The warrants by which these Lodges were working were surrendered to the Prov. Grand Master of that district, with the view, and with the distinct understanding, as I am informed, that

(they were forthwith to be returned to England; but that official having succeeded in inducing certain Members of the Craft to accept these warrants, Lodges were again opened under them. It appears, therefore, that in the whole Eastern part of Canada there are now only seven English Lodges, and these seven Lodges are controlled by and are represented in two Prov. Grand Lodges, while in that section of the province, which formerly constituted the district of Montreal and William Henry, there are now twelve Lodges working under warrants from the Grand Lodge of Canada. In the published report of the proceedings of the December meeting of your Grand Lodge, your Lordship is said to have remarked, in the course of the debate upon Canadian matters, that "recognition must precede negotiation." The correctness of this apothegm is indisputable, and while the Masons of Canada received with the liveliest satisfaction this acknowledgment of the correctness of their position from a Grand Lodge from which so many of them originally hailed, and while I, as their Grand Master, gladly receive and warmly reciprocate the paternal feeling which you, M.W. Sir, so kindly expressed through your Grand Secretary, I feel, and the Masons of Canada feel, that the act was deprived of much of its grace by the attempt to limit the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.

"I have ever held and frequently expressed the opinion, that any subordinate Lodges, preferring to continue under their English warrants, had a perfect and undoubted right to do so, and were entitled not only to a recognition from us, but to all their Masonic privileges. These would have been cheerfully conceded, but beyond this we cannot go—and I can scarcely imagine that you, Most Worshipful Sir, or the members of the Grand Lodge in England, knowing the importance of Masonic unity, would, upon mature consideration, ask us to do more. Would it not, I venture to ask, be more in accordance with true Masonic principle, and have a tendency to raise still higher the character of the Craft in the eyes of the world, were the Grand Lodge of England, with that magnanimity which has heretofore distinguished its acts, to take the earliest opportunity of announcing to those seven Lodges in Lower Canada, that in consequence of the recent events which had transpired in Canada, no new warrants would be issued in that province, and that although the continuance of their connection would give pleasure and satisfaction, it was for them seriously to consider whether the best interests of the Order would not be advanced by uniting with their brethren and fellow-subjects in the Grand Lodge of Canada, a body now established and recognized by the Masonic world?

"In July next, I shall retire from the proud position which for the last few years I have occupied among the Masons of Canada; the many difficulties which lay in our path have been overcome, and Masonry has at length attained a position which must soon lead to the most desirable results. It would be most gratifying to me, on leaving the Oriental chair, to feel that the cloud which has so long lowered over the Masons of England and Canada had been at length dispersed, and that the link, which for so many years had connected us in the bonds of brotherly love and friendship, although strained had not been broken, but, in a new and nobler form, had united us more closely and indissolubly together.

"There are now 113 Lodges in working under warrants from this Grand Lodge, the majority of which I have personally visited, for the purpose of inspecting their work; composed as these Lodges are of Masons coming from nearly every part of the world, I found, as a natural consequence, a great diversity in their mode of working, and I have laboured earnestly, in order to introduce a uniform system of work among them; this great object, I am happy to say, is now in a fair way of being accomplished; the English mode has been adopted as a basis, and the Committee, to whom the matter has been entrusted, will soon be in a position to exemplify the result of their labours and research.

"I have instructed the Grand Secretary to forward to you copies of our printed proceedings since our organization, with specimens also of our warrants, certificates, &c., of which I beg of your acceptance.

"The subject of the appointment of Representatives will, in all probability, soon be brought up for consideration, and I need only say how gladly and gratefully I would receive any suggestion which you, Most Worshipful Sir, might be pleased to offer.

"Indulging in the hope that a full recognition, based upon natural confidence and Masonic principle, will be properly accorded,

"I have the honour to be, Most Worshipful Sir and Brother,

"Yours fraternally,

"WM. M. WILSON,

"Grand Master of the Masons in Canada.

"The Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland,

"Grand Master of Masons of England, &c., &c., &c."



The M.W. GRAND MASTER then said, Brethren, in conformity with the notice which I have put upon the paper, I shall proceed to state to you as concisely and as shortly as I can, the views I entertain on this question. When the subject came before us at the last Grand Lodge, I was not aware that the Grand Lodge of Canada claimed a jurisdiction over the entire province; I was under the impression that all our Canadian Brethren asked was, an independent Grand Lodge for Canada West. It seems we were mistaken on that point; and now, after having anxiously considered the matter, I am of opinion that we ought to comply with their request, and I shall advise Grand Lodge to accede gracefully and at once to their claim, and recognize them as the Grand Lodge of Canada. At the same time, I have thought it my duty to stipulate for the recognition and protection, in all their Masonic rites, of those Brethren in Canada, who still hold firm in their allegiance to this Grand Lodge. It appears that there are altogether only seven Lodges who still hail from us, and it is likely that two or three of them will be soon extinct. I have not a doubt, from the kindness and fraternal feeling manifested in the letter you have heard read, that I shall be able to secure that protection for English Masons in Canada, which I think it my bounden duty to claim for them. The only thing in the settlement of the question which appears difficult is, that we have still a Provincial Grand Master in Quebec; but I believe that he has intimated his intention to retire. There has been no Provincial Grand Lodge held in Montreal for some years past, so that we may look upon that province as extinct. I feel confident the Grand Lodge of Canada will accede to the demand I propose to make to it, and acknowledge our Provincial Grand Master, so long as he may retain office as ruler of the Lodges which still hold under us; and we shall in turn assure them that we shall issue no new warrants for the district; and therefore, in course of time, the English Lodges will become altogether extinct. There is one suggestion, however, to which I cannot accede. They suggest that we should ask the English Lodges in Canada, whether it would not be better for them to give up their warrants to us, and at once place themselves under the banner of the Grand Lodge of Canada. That is a recommendation which ought not to be given by us, and I am convinced that on explanation, it will appear to the Canadian Brethren themselves, an improper suggestion; for I cannot but say, that a kind spirit and a most fraternal feeling towards this Grand Lodge, pervades the Canadian Brethren. I have seen copies of the warrants and certificates of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and they are fac similies of our own—showing, in a most conclusive manner, that in those matters, as in all their working, they are anxious to adopt the policy and construction of the Grand Lodge of England. Nothing can, I think, be more satisfactory to the Grand Lodge. There is no Brother in this Country who has any feeling, or who has an anxious desire for the good of Masonry, but must rejoice to find it flourish in all parts of the world, and see the Brethren acknowledge those laws which conduce to the welfare and prosperity of the Craft. That is my feeling, and is, I am sure, the feeling of every Brother in England. There is one point I would call your attention to, because it very much confirms what I have frequently expressed with respect to the secession of the Canadian Lodges. It appears, from the correspondence before us, that the most powerful motive which influenced them, was a desire to establish charitable institutions for educational purposes, and for the relief of aged and distressed Masons and their widows, similar to those we have in this country. This, I think, shows pretty plainly that it is not owing entirely to the neglect of Grand Lodge, that they were induced to withdraw from us, and establish an independent Grand Lodge of their own. They had, it seems, higher and better motives for their secession. These motives you will, I know, fully appreciate, and very warmly recognize. Then the question arises, how is it best to proceed with regard to the negotiations for the settlement of the question—negotiations which must of necessity be of a delicate nature, and require great care. If it should be the opinion of Grand Lodge, that they should be placed in the hands of the Grand Master, I shall be most willing to undertake the task. If, on the contrary, Grand Lodge should think it better that it should itself enter upon these negotiations, I shall have nothing to say against its decision; but as it will be necessary that notice should be given of the resolutions to be submitted to our consideration, I shall call a special Grand Lodge, that no time may be lost in meeting the wishes of the Canadian Brethren. It is for you now to take one or other of these alternatives; and, in conclusion, I have only to hope that I have made myself perfectly understood.

Bro. GREGORY said that, although there was not, in the reply received from the G.L. of Canada, the same suavity which characterized the letter, in which the Grand Secretary had communicated to the Canadian Brethren the resolution adopted at the last Grand Lodge, they were to look for the true interpretation of it to the

letter which the M.W. Grand Master had received from the G.M. of Canada. Seeing the way in which the G.M. had anticipated the feelings of the Canadian Brethren, he (Bro. Gregory) would venture to submit that the conclusion of the negotiations should be left in his hands, especially as it was a subject, a little warmth of temper upon which, might lead to irreconcilable estrangement. Looking at the difficulty of the alternative and the delay which must necessarily occur, and being fully confident that the M.W. Grand Master would fully maintain the dignity of Grand Lodge, he would move a resolution to the effect that, Grand Lodge having heard the statements contained in the correspondence which has been read to them, was of opinion that the M.W. Grand Master should take such steps for the settlement of the question as he might think consistent with the dignity and honour of Grand Lodge, and secure protection to the English Masons in Canada. This he considered the simplest, most dignified, and honourable way of terminating all the difficulties between the Masons in Canada and the Grand Lodge of England.

*The motion having been seconded,*

Bro. BEECH, M.P., as one who had from the first taken a great interest in the question pending between the Canadian Brethren and the Grand Lodge, fully approved of the settlement of the question being left in the hands of the Grand Master, as being the course most courteous to the Grand Lodge of Canada, and best calculated to avoid all future misunderstandings.

Bro. WHITMORE protested against any resolution being put to Grand Lodge, which had not been referred to the Board of Masters.

Bro. HAYERS, on the contrary, maintained, that according to the Book of Constitutions, this was a subject which fell immediately under the cognizance and jurisdiction of the M.W. the Grand Master.

Bro. BINCKES felt there was no earthly use in protesting against the course now proposed to be adopted. He wished Grand Lodge would leave matters of feeling, and come to matters of fact. It was now proposed to agree to a resolution, of which they had had no previous notice; whereas six months ago, when similar documents had been brought before Grand Lodge, a Brother who attempted to found a resolution upon them was stopped because no notice had been given of it.

Bro. DOBIE thought it better to withdraw the resolution, and leave the matter entirely in the hands of the M.W. the Grand Master.

Rev. Bro. COX supported the resolution, and hoped the Brethren would not be intimidated or put down by clamour.

The motion was then put and carried by an immense majority.

#### TASMANIA.

A letter from Bro. TOBY, of Hobart Town, surrendering the warrant of Lodge No. 781, was then read, but no resolution taken on it. In reference to it, however,

The M.W. Grand Master said he much regretted the surrender of the warrant. The whole circumstances of the case, however, were under his consideration, and he hoped to be able to make such an arrangement as would still all existing disputes, and prevent dissensions for the future.

#### THE COLONIAL BOARD.

The report of the Colonial Board, having reference to fees, was then laid before the Brethren.

Upon the reading of this report some conversation took place between Bro. Evans and the R.W. Provincial Grand Master of Victoria, Bro. Capt. Clarke, in reference to the fees paid by the Colonial Lodges. In his opinion the time must come when Australia would declare its independence of Grand Lodge. The report was received, and the consideration of the subject referred back to the Board with power to act.

#### BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The Grand Secretary then read the Report of the Board of Benevolence, which stated that in December fourteen petitioners were relieved to the extent of £151; in January, five others to the extent of £60; and in February, six more to the extent of £70. The Board recommended the grant of £100 to the widow of a Calcutta Brother, three grants of £50 each, and one of £40 to Brethren connected with the Provinces. These recommendations were on the statement of each case—the statements were most painful—at once acceded to.

#### THE REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE.

The report of the Audit Committee, from which it appeared there was a balance of £147 0s. 10d. to the credit of the Benevolent Fund, and one of £1,134 10s. 5d. to that of the Board of General Purposes, was, on the motion of Bro. ROXBOROUGH, entered on the minutes.

The M.W. Grand Master having complained that the Brethren who filled the Lodge at the commencement of the evening should have left before the real business of the Craft was entered upon, Grand Lodge was closed in ample form and with solemn prayer.

THE GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

The following communication has just been addressed to the Masters of the various Lodges throughout the kingdom:—

“Board of General Purposes, Freemasons’ Hall,  
January 10, 1850.

“W. SIR AND BROTHER,—At the meeting of the Grand Lodge, on the first of December last, the following resolutions, which had been submitted by the Board of General Purposes, were agreed to, viz:—

“1st.—That it is desirable that the freehold property, now belonging to the Society, or such part thereof as may be necessary, shall be devoted exclusively to Masonic purposes.

“2nd.—That the subject be referred back to the Board with directions to report thereon to the Grand Lodge, and to lay before it such a scheme as may appear to be practicable for the carrying out of the foregoing resolution, and to authorize the Board to expend a sum not exceeding £300 for that purpose, and if they see fit, to submit the subject to the public competition of the whole Masonic body, and to offer a sum not exceeding 150 guineas in premiums for the best design.

“That in the scheme which they will have to consider, it will be desirable to proceed only with the view of providing fitting and appropriate accommodation, to be devoted solely and exclusively to Masonic purposes

“Carrying out the intention expressed in the concluding portion of their last Report, the Board of General Purposes desire now to put their Brethren in possession of all the facts bearing on the case, in order that each Lodge and each Brother may have the fairest opportunity of forming a correct judgment on a matter so important to their interests as the disposal of their chief property.

“The present possessions of the society consist of—

	<i>Per Annum.</i>
“1.—The building known as Freemasons’ Tavern and Hall, let at ... ..	£800 0 0
“2.—No. 60, Great Queen-street, lately added to Tavern, let at ... ..	30 0 0
“3.—No. 59, Great Queen-street, held by Mr. Solomon, let at ... ..	70 0 0
“4.—No. 63, Great Queen-street, occupied chiefly by the Society as offices ... ..	... ..
“5.—No. 64 and 65, Great Queen-street, Bacon’s Hotel, and certain premises at back, on lease, of which ten years are unexpired ... ..	240 0 0
“6.—Premises in Middle-yard, let to Mr. Lambert ... ..	50 0 0
“7.—Seven houses in Queen’s-place, at weekly rents producing ... ..	202 16 0

“In the present statement the Board propose to confine themselves to those parts which are known as the Tavern, and to that portion which is in the occupation of the Craft itself. Of this property the society retains to itself the exclusive use of the Grand Secretary’s and Clerks’ Offices, the Grand Master’s room, the small room known as the Library, the Grand Tyler’s apartments, and the Temple. The tenants are allowed to use the great hall upon receiving a written permission for that purpose, and upon payment of one guinea to the society for each time it is so used; and the society pays to the tenants the sum of £12 12s. for each time that the meetings of Grand Lodge are held therein, and a proportionate sum for the use of rooms required by the various committees.

“It has long pressed upon the consideration of the Brethren that the accommodation thus afforded is not such as the Craft generally has a right to require, nor such as an institution so wealthy and important should provide for its members. The Board are of opinion that amongst the first requisites to be provided are a library and reading room, and a coffee and refreshment room, where not only London members may meet, but where Brethren from the provinces, the colonies, and from other countries, may find appropriate accommodation. The Board feel strongly, likewise, the necessity of providing other and more extensive offices for the executive department, and they desire to see these arrangements include not only offices for the Grand Secretary and his clerks, but also for the various charities, which, forming part of the Masonic system, should find their appropriate place within the chief building.

“The Board presume that all will agree that it is requisite that the additions above described should be provided; it remains then to inquire how and by what means such an object can be effected; whether, on the one hand, by an extension of the present system, and by letting the major portion of the buildings as a tavern—or, on the other hand, by the society taking under its own management such portion of the property as may be adequate to the requirements of the Brethren, and taking upon itself to provide everything which is requisite for the meetings of Lodges and their banquets.

“In order to a due consideration of these questions the Board submit the following details:—

“1st.—As to the Fund for General Purposes, from which fund alone means can be looked for to defray whatever expenses may be incurred. On January 1st, 1850, in consequence of the completion of a large purchase, there was no funded property to the credit of General Purposes, and at that date

The society was indebted to the Grand Treasurer and Bankers ... ..	£1483 12 11
The society has since given away ... ..	7553 3 0
“ has expended in purchase of property ... ..	5450 0 0
“ has invested, and now holds, in Reduced 3 per cents. ... ..	6500 0 0
“ had cash in hand, Nov. 13th, 1850 .. ..	811 13 1
Making a total excess of receipts over current expenditure of ... ..	21,782 9 0

“This sum divided by 8½ years, shows an average excess for that period of about £2500 per annum. Considering the unexampled prosperity of late years, the Board do not think that it would be prudent to calculate with certainty that the surplus receipts will continue at a similar rate in future years; at the same time they draw attention to the fact that the Tontine dividends and expenses, amounting to nearly £300 per annum, now depend on a single life, aged 85 years, and therefore may be expected shortly to fall in.

“2nd. The rent of £830 per annum, now receivable from the tavern, is increased by the lettings of the hall; these receipts are subject to certain deductions for repairs, meetings of the Grand Lodge and of committees, leaving a present net rental of about £800 per annum. In considering this it must be borne in mind that the tenants pay all rates and taxes, excepting property tax. It may be observed that the members of the society pay back to their tenants, for the banquets of private Lodges, and for their festivals, a sum of £5000 per annum, from which sum it is reasonable to suppose that the tenants derive a fair profit. There are meetings in London 124 Lodges and 28 Chapters; of the former 33, and of the latter 8, hold their meetings in the tavern, leaving 86 Lodges and 20 Chapters who find their accommodation elsewhere.

“These are the main facts which the Board desire to submit in order to a due consideration, whether it will be practicable for the society to take into its own hands the entire management of such portion of the property as may be requisite for the use of its members. The ultimate decision of this question, and the means by which, if to be effected, it may be best carried out, rest, of course, with the Grand Lodge. At the present time the Board have sought for no authority to proceed further than in that which they expressly desire to be understood is a preliminary inquiry. They have asked for a vote of £300, to be used partly in defraying the expense of the plans necessary under any circumstances, and chiefly—if it be found practicable hereafter to carry out such a scheme as they contemplate—to enable them, under the sanction of Grand Lodge, to submit such scheme to general competition, and thus, by having a well-considered and matured plan at first, to avoid unnecessary outlay, and to ensure that whatever expense is incurred, shall be done as part and parcel of a progress towards the future accomplishment of a building, which shall be perfectly adapted in its internal arrangements to the wants of the Brethren, and in its external appearance be ornate in design and creditable to the Order.

“It is to be further considered, if any great alterations should be proposed, that they can only be carried out upon the expiration of the present lease, which has now three and a half years to run—and it is reasonable to expect that during that time a further surplus of at least £6,000 will be accumulated, which, with the sum now in hand, would leave at the disposal of the society an amount of (say) £12,500; and the Board suggest that it would be most undesirable to entertain any scheme which would involve a greater outlay at any one time than the funds will be equal to meet immediately on its completion. The period which must elapse affords ample time for consideration; the Board are desirous of avoiding any step which might have the effect of plunging the society into unnecessary expense—they desire to proceed with the utmost caution in the matter committed to them—and to this end they invite from all Lodges, and from all individual Masons, assistance and co-operation.

“It will be apparent to all, that for some part of the outlay to be incurred no pecuniary return can be expected; by this the Board refer to the expense which may be incurred in providing accommodation for the executive. The Craft, however, may fairly expect it to be shown, that for the chief part of the sums to be expended, or rent to be surrendered, there will be an adequate revenue. From any outlay which is for the benefit of the Craft generally, there can be no return looked for, except in the increased comfort and accommodation afforded; whilst for any outlay which is for the benefit of a

special class of Brethren, the society would have a right to expect an adequate return. The library, besides possessing standard works upon those subjects with which Freemasonry is especially allied, should also be provided with the literature of the day, and the cost of so providing it should be no burden to the funds of the society; as the coffee room and other rooms of a similar character would not be available to the great majority of the Craft, they should therefore be made remunerative to the Grand Lodge, by those who derive especial advantage from their use. There are several ways in which this can be effected, the details of which will be for future consideration.

"The Board feel that it is hardly necessary to point out that if, with a due regard to financial results, it shall be found possible to devote Freemasons' Hall solely and exclusively to Masonic purposes, that such a result could not fail to elevate the character of Masonry in this country, and place the Grand Lodge of England—the largest and most important in the world—at least on a par in that respect with other Grand Lodges. The board desire, however, to impress upon the Craft that there are many Brethren who are strongly in favour of continuing, and very much extending, the present tavern arrangements, and who are of opinion that this can be done not only without derogating from the credit of the institution, but that it will be productive of an adequate return for the considerable outlay which must be incurred.

"The Board have next to direct the attention of the Brethren to the possibility of any scheme which may be submitted, eventuating in some pecuniary sacrifice in the loss of rent or interest of money; it will be for the Craft to consider whether the obtaining of a fitting temple for the mystic art will be an appropriate manner of expending their surplus funds, and whether some diminution in their annual income will be compensated for by the advantages thus gained.

"The questions which the Board desire to submit to the Brethren are these:—

"1st.—Are a library, reading, and refreshment rooms requisite, and would they be acceptable to the Craft generally?

"2nd.—If it be found practicable, will it be desirable to devote the necessary property solely and exclusively to Masonic uses?

"3rd.—Are the Craft prepared to submit to some diminution of their annual income for the purpose of keeping such property sacred to Masonry?

"4th.—If it should be found desirable hereafter that an annual subscription (which would necessarily be of very small amount) should be required to entitle Brethren to the uses of separate reading and refreshment rooms, what support would it probably receive from your Lodge or the members thereof?

"Lastly.—If it can be shown that a considerable outlay for the purpose of giving increased accommodation to the Craft, and at the same time very much extending the tavern, would be productive of an adequate return, would such a proceeding be expedient and desirable?

"Fully conscious of their responsibility as the executive body, not of Grand Lodge alone, but of the whole Craft, the Board have at heart an earnest desire, not only to consider the dignity and reputation of the Order, and the accommodation and comfort of the Brethren, but having before them the duty of watching narrowly the finances of the society, they desire also to consider the subject with unprejudiced minds, and to make no recommendation to Grand Lodge on a matter which is not only most interesting to themselves but which involves the future interests and welfare of the whole Masonic body, until after the most mature consideration, and the fullest information and advice which they can obtain from their Brethren.

"The Board earnestly request your attention to this subject; they beg that you will have the kindness to let this address be read and considered in your Lodge; that you will be at the trouble of inviting the opinions of the members of your Lodge, and in communicating the result, afford the Board all the assistance in your power.

"I have the honour to be, W. Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

"JOHN HAINES, President.

"P.S.—It is requested that your reply may be sent, on or before the 31st of March next, to the Grand Secretary, at whose office inquiries may be made, and plans of the present building inspected by any of the Brethren who desire it."

#### AUSTRALIA.

The *Richmond Lodge* was consecrated by the D.P.G.M. at the Admiral Napier Hotel, Richmond, near Collingwood, on the 7th September.

#### INDIA.

BENGAL.—The foundation stone of a General Hospital, at Howrah, was laid by the D.P.G.M., and the District Grand Lodge, on the 10th December.

## Calanial.

### CANADA.

We extract the following from a private letter lately received:—

"Toronto, Canada, 5th February, 1859.

"The account of the proceedings of Grand Lodge in December last, has been read and commented upon very freely by the Brethren here, and formed, in conjunction with an official communication from the Grand Secretary, the subject of a very animated, but towards the Grand Lodge of England, friendly discussion, at our Special Meeting, on the 19th ultimo. While all regretted the unfortunate way in which the recognition of the Craft in Canada, as an independent body, has, for the present, been rendered inoperative, owing to some most extraordinary misconception on the part of the M.W. Grand Master or his advisers, as to the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, no one expressed disapproval of the course you were kind enough to adopt, in advocating the postponement of that recognition until more complete information should be received from us, and our best thanks are due to you.

"It is hardly possible to avoid arriving at the conclusion that some kind of "dodge" (if I may be allowed to use the word) is concealed under the Grand Master's precipitancy, connected in some way with Bro. PORTAL's proposed motion, printed on the business paper. I hope we are mistaken; but *nothing* has ever appeared in any one single document emanating from the Grand Lodge of Canada, which could, by any ingenuity, be properly construed into the interpretation, that its authority only extended throughout the boundaries of Canada "West," and therefore the present proffer of recognition is most unaccountable.

"As the Grand Lodge of Canada neither can, nor will accept such partial recognition, and the subject will again, therefore, be brought before the Grand Lodge of England, it is due to you, after all your exertions in our behalf, and as you appear to have been misunderstood and misrepresented in *London*, and subjected to not a small share of hard words, to put you in possession of as much information as possible, previous to the first Wednesday in March next.

"I will not occupy your valuable time by writing a lengthy letter, but refer you at once to the accompanying documents, viz. :—

"1.—Copy of Resolution adopted by the Grand Lodge of Canada, which notices the recognition, but leaves the misconception or error to be rectified in *London*, as to our jurisdiction.

"2.—First address to the Grand Lodge of England. I call your attention to title page and page 10, where you will perceive that the Deputy Grand Master, was elected from Canada *East*.

"3.—Book of Constitution, G.L. of Canada, see title (page 3), and pages 5 (District D.G. Master), and 14 (Deputy Grand Master). With respect to this last, it was from a sense of justice to the Craft in *Lower Canada*, who are in a minority, that the clause of the Constitution was introduced, providing that the Grand Master, and Deputy Grand Master must not *both* be elected in Upper or Canada *West*.

"4.—List of Lodges—by which you will see that the Grand Lodge of Canada already numbers more Lodges than England, in the very section of the Province, which the Grand Master professes to understand the Grand Lodge of Canada does not lay claim to.—England has now only six Lodges in *Lower Canada*, including Quebec, and one of these last, I know, is very shaky in its allegiance.

"5.—Constitution of the Grand Chapter of *Canada*.

"I sent you a printed copy of the proceedings, which, I hope, reached you. They would make you quite *au fait*, on the subject of our Union, but one of the articles of that Union is so emphatic that I am induced to subscribe it at full length. It declares (after the preamble)—

"*It is resolved*,—That an impartial review of all the eventful circumstances attending its organization—its priority—its subsequent important proceedings,—and its recognition by a portion of the British Empire, and by a very large proportion of the Grand Lodges of the United States of America,—demonstrates that the Grand Lodge of Canada, organized on the 10th October, 1855, and known and recognized as aforesaid, by the style and title of *The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada*, should be acknowledged by the *entire Canadian Craft*, and should be, and is hereby declared to be, the Grand Lodge of the Fraternity, in and THROUGHOUT CANADA."

"As a Rider to the foregoing, the last resolution provides for the future enrolment of all *Provincial Grand* and *Private Lodges* not then in alliance with us. If you will refer to the list of officers (page 69), you will perceive that they are taken from all parts of *Canada*.

"I think what I have sent will be of use to you. It is a matter of sincere regret that the Grand Master appointed any successor to Bro. Harrington, at Quebec, for the Grand Lodge of Canada was even then too solidly established to be ignored.

"In conclusion, I cannot too seriously assure you, that the Grand Lodge of Canada is very anxious to be in full communion with the Grand Lodge of England. We have lost none of our Masonic and true Brotherly affection and regard; but we must be consistent, and an *implied* acceptance, even of the present proffer of recognition, would be, in effect, stultifying ourselves. We *may* continue to recognize such few Lodges as are now existing in Canada, and desirous of preserving their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England, but the powers of Provincial Grand Masters *must* cease, for no new Lodges can or will be tolerated, other than such as may be established by the Grand Lodge of Canada. The latter Body can communicate on equal terms with the Grand Lodge of England alone. The Provincial Grand Masters (and through them the Provincial Grand Lodges), are not supreme, but subject to extinction at the pleasure of the M.W. Grand Master."

#### TASMANIA.

The *Freemasons' Magazine* gives the following narrative of the proceedings which have taken place subsequent to the decision of Grand Lodge to uphold Bro. Ewing in his authority, and to reject the appeal of the Hobart Town brethren to be taken from under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Grand Master of Tasmania. It appears that upon this decision reaching Hobart Town, Bro. Charles Toby, the Worshipful Master of No. 781, called a meeting of the Lodge, to consider what course should be taken. This meeting was held on the 3rd of June, and the following resolutions carried by a majority of twenty-eight to five:—"That this Lodge, in obedience to the decision of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, conveyed in the letter of the Grand Secretary, dated 11th March last, recognises the appointment of the Rev. R. K. Ewing, as Provincial Grand Master, and begs to be reinstated in its Masonic functions." On the following day Bro. Toby addressed a letter to Bro. Ewing, communicating the result of the meeting, and expressing a hope that he would "immediately restore the Lodge to its Masonic functions, and also legalize the proceedings while working, pending the decision of Grand Lodge." This letter remained unanswered for eight days, when the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master apologised for the delay, on the ground of "excess of occupation," and proceeded to say—

"The submission of the Brethren to the command of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, has given me, as his representative in the province, much satisfaction, and I may accept it as a well in-

tended pledge of a harmony that you, and the Brethren of No. 781, will endeavour to maintain among the Craft in Tasmania.

"I am glad that so many of the Brethren present were agreed as to the course adopted; and in taking the requisite steps for restoring matters to a proper footing, I will thank you to furnish me with a list of the names of the brethren who voted for the minute you have sent me, and the names of the five who voted against. I shall then lose no time in having the necessary documents made out.

"I beg to state, however, that I have not the power to legalize the proceedings of the Lodge which took place during the period of suspension. To give them effect, they must be done over again, if required, so soon as the Lodge is at work. Such meeting or meetings of the Brethren, as were held at the request of the Grand Lodge, or my own, with a view to the settlement of differences, are, upon that request legal, and form part of the records of No. 781; but beyond this, all business transactions, from the time of suspension sustained by Grand Lodge, is in itself wrong. You will, I am sure, therefore perceive that I cannot make right what both the Constitution and the Grand Lodge pronounce wrong. When the necessary documents are completed, I shall be happy to visit Hobart Town."

To this Bro. Toby replied on the following day, stating that he had no record of the brethren voting against the resolution—four of them having immediately retired from the room on being placed in a minority; and praying that as the Lodge had been suspended *en masse*, so might it be restored to its functions *en masse*. Although this communication was dated on the 12th of June, no reply was received until the 5th of August, a period of nearly two months, and then only on the receipt of a "refresher"—as our legal brethren would say—from Bro. Toby, calling his attention to the length of time which had intervened since he wrote to him; and here it would seem that Bro. Ewing, looking at the importance of the question under consideration, had placed himself in the wrong, did we not bear in mind that he was in a measure forced to be cautious, owing to the position in which he was placed, and the eagerness with which every word and act was seized upon by some of the brethren to his prejudice. In the letter of August 5th, Bro. Ewing stated that he had come to the conclusion, "that it would be unwarrantable and unmasonic," to restore the Lodge *en masse*, and "that each member must himself renew his allegiance ere he can hope for the benefit of release." Here there can be no doubt that the Provincial Grand Master was right, as Bro. Wilkinson, with one or two others, had placed themselves in distinct opposition to his authority, and declared that, rather than place themselves under the control of the Provincial Grand Lodge, they would retire altogether from Freemasonry. With the letter of the 5th of August was also sent a form of petition, for the Brethren who wished to be restored to their Masonic functions to sign. This Bro. Toby immediately did, and proceeded to obtain the signatures of other brothers, determining, however, not to present it until he received information of the Grand Lodge of England having confirmed the decision come to in March. This information appears to have reached the colony on the 19th of October; and on the same day the petition was forwarded to Bro. Ewing—Bro. Toby remarking that many of the brethren had had no opportunity of signing it, owing to their absence from the colony.

On the 26th, Bro. Ewing acknowledged the receipt of the petition, and an accompanying letter, putting however (as he says, with the advice of his Board of General Purposes) what we must be allowed to designate the following absurd questions:—

"1st. Has any communication, memorial, or letter, bearing directly or indirectly on the subject-matter in dispute between the R.W. the Prov. G.M., and No. 781, or on the R.W. the Prov. G.M. personally, been sent to the Grand Secretary, or to any member of Grand Lodge, by No. 781, either by or through its W.M., board of P.Ms., Secretary, or any other officer or any member signing the petition?"

"2nd. In the *Hobart Town Daily Mercury*, of 26th August, an article from a Masonic journal\* was reprinted at the request of a large number of the Craft. Has any member signing the petition, acted, or been interested, directly or indirectly, in seeking or causing the publication in the *Mercury* of the said article?"

"3rd. In the *Hobart Town Daily Mercury*, of 7th September, Bro. Wilkinson caused to be printed a letter sent officially from the Secretary of Hope, No. 901, to the Secretary of No. 781, containing a part of the ceremonial of Lodge working; and which letter, of course, was preserved among the records of Lodge No. 781: will you inform me by whose authority, and by what means, that letter became available to Bro. Wilkinson, and whether any member signing the petition was concerned, either directly or indirectly, by act or knowledge, in the publication by Bro. Wilkinson, of the letter of Bro. A. Learmonth, Secretary of Hope, No. 901?"

This communication was considered at a meeting of the Brethren

\* The *Freemasons' Magazine*.

of No. 781, on the 3rd of November, and the following resolutions come to:—

“That the members of No. 781, present at this meeting, after hearing from Bro. Toby the communications received by him from the Prov. Grand Master, relative to the release of the members of Lodge No. 781, from suspension, and requesting to be furnished with information concerning communications to the Grand Master, and the publication of the various articles upon Masonry, which have appeared in the public journals, consider that the information so requested has nothing whatever to do with the question at issue, namely, the release of the Lodge.”

“That a large majority of the members of No. 781 having, in obedience to the decision of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, recognised the appointment and authority of the Rev. R. K. Ewing as Prov. Grand Master of Tasmania, by signing the petition forwarded by him for release, and praying to be restored to their Masonic status, and pledging themselves to work within the laws and constitutions of the Craft—it is the opinion of this meeting that all that was required by the Prov. Grand Master, as set forth in his letter of the 5th of August, accompanying the petition, has been complied with. It is, therefore, resolved that Bro. Toby be desired to request the Prov. Grand Master—in case he shall not have decided, before the 9th instant, to reinstate the members of Lodge No. 781 who have signed the petition—to return such petition to him by that date, in order that it may be forwarded, with the correspondence relating thereto, to the Most Worshipful Grand Master, by the next overland mail.”

On the 8th of November, Bro. Ewing wrote that his Board of General Purposes had decided “My questions are met—the release, &c., will be posted to-morrow.” Being now in a fair way of settling all disputes, any one would have thought Bro. Ewing, and his Board of General Purposes, would have been satisfied, and congratulated themselves upon having so easily got rid of a troublesome and vexatious question; but on the following day another letter was dispatched in these terms:—

“The Board of General Purposes took, yesterday, the recent correspondence between No. 781 and myself into consideration. Touching the first of my questions submitted to you, in my letter of the 26th ult., it was held that your letter of the 4th instant contains a sufficient answer; the second question was not held to be vital, the more especially as it was concluded that the parties who caused the reprinting of the articles complained of have, to some extent, atoned by the recent reprint of Lord Pamure's speech in answer to Bro. Warren's motion; concerning the third question, it was held that the Secretary should be alone responsible. Bro. Drake is not therefore released, and I shall make an especial representation of his case to Grand Lodge. Bro. Learmonth's letter was published since the 6th of August, after the receipt of the petition I sent you; and during the period of suspension, as the custodian of the document referred to, he is responsible to the Craft for its being printed. In the printing of it (see No. 3, p. 74, ‘Of Members and their Duty’), the Book of Constitutions has been violated. It will be for me to recommend to Grand Lodge the enforcement of that law, unless Bro. Drake can give me a satisfactory explanation as to the manner in which Bro. Wilkinson became possessed of it; Bro. Wilkinson's conduct in printing it is already before Grand Lodge.”

On the next day, November 10th, a protest was entered against the decision with regard to Bro. Drake, it being clearly shown that the document alluded to had been printed in the first published correspondence on this unfortunate dispute—a copy of which many of our English Brethren will remember to have received about twelve months since; and the probability was that Bro. Wilkinson had reprinted it from that correspondence. The exclusion of Bro. Drake from the act of grace was however continued, and, moreover, the following peremptory demand was sent to Bro. Toby, the Worshipful Master of No. 781:—

“I also summon you to place, under cover and seal, in my possession, by the 20th of the month, the minute book of No. 781, and the minutes and records of every meeting of No. 781, and of all committees and boards of P.Ms. that have taken place since 1st January, 1857.”

This the restored Brethren held to be exceeding the power of the Provincial Grand Master, as laid down in the Book of Constitutions—

“The Provincial Grand Master may summon any Lodge or Brother, within his district, to attend him, and to produce the warrant, books, papers, and accounts of the Lodge, or the certificate of the Brother.”

The result was, that at the first meeting of the restored Brethren, on the 18th November, as a Lodge, they came to the resolution with two dissentients to dissolve the Lodge, and return the warrant to the Most Worshipful Grand Master. This Bro. Toby at once did, without giving due notice to the absent members of his Lodge, and without waiting, as he should have done, for the confirmation of the

resolution, accompanying it also with the charter of the Grand Chapter; and, as will have been seen by the notice in the business paper for Wednesday next, the documents are now in the possession of the Grand Master. How far Bro. Toby, and those who have acted with him, have been justified in the course they have pursued, we are somewhat doubtful, as at page 65 of the Book of Constitutions, we find the following words:—

“Should the majority of any Lodge determine to retire from it, the power of assembling remains with the rest of the members who adhere to their allegiance; but if all the members of a Lodge withdraw, the warrant becomes extinct;”

and it is clear, from Bro. Toby's statement, that all the members have not withdrawn, there being a minority, or only a bare majority of the restored members present, and amongst them, two dissentients to the proposition for dissolving, irrespective of absent Brethren who might claim to be allowed to work the Lodge.

#### PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF BENGAL.

A SPECIAL meeting of the District Grand Lodge of Bengal and its territories was held at the Freemason's Hall, Calcutta, on Friday, the 29th October, when there were present the R. W. Bros. John J. L. Hoff, D. Prov. G.M. as Prov. G.M.; Samuel Smith, P. Prov. G.M.; Henry Howe, P. D. Prov. G.M.; William Clark, Prov. S. G. W.; John R. Roberts, Prov. J. G. W.; William J. Judge, P. Prov. J. G. W.; V. W. Bros. John Gray, Prov. G. R. and Offg. Prov. G. S.; Michael S. Staunton, P. Prov. G. R.; the W. Bros. Charles F. Tomerre, Prov. J. G. D. as Prov. S. G. D.; Alexander H. Ledlie, Prov. G. S. as Prov. J. G. D.; Thomas Jones, Prov. G. Sup. of W.; Henry Frazer, P. Prov. G. Sup. of W.; George O. Wray, Prov. G. P. as Prov. G. D. of C.; John Parry, Prov. G. S. as Prov. G. S. B.; Louis A. Emanuel, P. Prov. G. O. as Prov. G. O.; Joseph K. Hamilton, Prov. G. S. as Prov. G. P.; the Provincial Grand Stewards, and Representatives of Lodges, No. 80, No. 265, No. 282, No. 551, No. 715, and No. 740.

The District Grand Lodge was opened in form.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master stated that this meeting had been called for the purpose of receiving an important communication from the Provincial Grand Master, which he would now read for the information of the District Grand Lodge; and as the report of this evening's proceedings would be printed and circulated immediately, the same information would also be conveyed, generally, throughout the province. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master then read the Provincial Grand Master's letter, as follows:—

“To the Provincial Grand Officers, Past Grand Officers, and Members of the District Grand Lodge of Bengal.

“DEAR BRETHREN,—As I shall not have the opportunity of meeting you again in Grand Lodge, I adopt this means of announcing to you, with deep regret, that the state of my health renders my immediate return to Europe absolutely necessary.

“It is not my intention to resign my office, at present; but as going beyond the limits of my province, and, as provided in Art. 10, p. 47, of the Book of Constitutions, I hereby appoint the Deputy Provincial Grand Master the R. W. Bro. John Jacob Louis Hoff, Past Junior Grand Warden of England, to execute all the functions of my Office, in my name; and for this purpose, I hereby invest him, under my hand and seal, with all the requisite powers, during my pleasure.

“Should it be determined that I am not to return to India, I shall, of course, tender my resignation of the office of Provincial Grand Master, to the M. W. the Grand Master in England. As, however, such an event is more than probable, I would recommend that you should, in the interim, nominate a Brother to be my successor; and forward your nomination, for submission to the M. W. the Grand Master. The supervision of this large province is very important: I trust, therefore, that you will give the nomination of a head to rule over it your serious consideration. I need hardly add, that, on taking my seat in the Grand Lodge of England, as P. Prov. G. M. of Bengal, I shall watch over the interests of this province; which, as having spent in it many happy years of my life, shall ever be cherished in my memory with the most kindly recollection. As your representative in England, my services may be freely commanded by the Provincial Grand Master and District Grand Lodge of Bengal.

“I thank you for the support and kindness I have experienced from yourselves, and from the Craft generally; and bidding you all an affectionate farewell, I remain, dear Brethren,

“Yours fraternally and affectionately,  
“JAMES RAMSAY, Prov. G. M.

“Calcutta, Oct. 22nd, 1858.”

R. W. Bro. Smith, P. Prov. G.M., then rose and addressed the District Grand Lodge, as follows:—

“BRETHREN,—In reference to the letter which you have just heard read from our R. W. Prov. G.M., you will, I am sure, be all de-

sirous to express the regret we feel, that failing health should render such a communication to this Lodge necessary.

"You will, I think, also join heartily in expressing the sentiments of respect and esteem we entertain for our departing Prov. G.M. I therefore propose—

"That this District Grand Lodge do express and record its deep regret that a necessity should exist for the immediate departure from India of our respected Prov. G.M., and our sorrow at the cause which renders that departure imperative.

"That this District Grand Lodge, in its collective capacity, recognizes with deep feelings of affectionate gratitude, the dignified and impartial manner in which our R. W. Prov. G.M. has, for a period of upwards of five years, administered the duties of his high office; the Masonic social feeling which has characterized his communications with the Craft generally; and the urbanity of his manner towards all Brethren who have had occasion individually to seek advice at his hands personally.

"That these resolutions be recorded in the proceedings of the District Grand Lodge, and that a copy thereof be forwarded, with a suitable letter, to the R. W. the Prov. G.M. of Bengal, Lieut.-Col. James Ramsay."

The above propositions having been seconded by R. W. Bro. Judge, P. Prov. J. G. W., were put to the vote and carried unanimously.

The D. Prov. G.M., with reference to the arrangement made by the Prov. G.M. for the conduct of business during his absence from India, expressed his hope that (though this would not be the first time that the executive duties of this province would devolve upon him) during the short time that he would rule over the District Grand Lodge, he would meet with its support.

The District Grand Lodge was then closed in form.

The M. W. G. M. has been pleased to appoint the R. W. Bro. Robt. Hamilton, *M. D.*, of Clifton Mount, Kingston, as Prov. G. M. for East Jamaica. The province, we believe, includes Lodges Nos. 250, 291, 447, 449, 686, 746, and 754.

Since the publication of the Calendar for 1859, warrants have been granted for nine new Lodges, viz.:—No. 1064, Concord Lodge, Castlemaine, Victoria; No. 1065, Marine of Newcastle, Newcastle, New South Wales; No. 1066, not completed owing to an informality; No. 1067, St. James, Gregorian Arms, Bermondsey; No. 1068, Preston, Star and Garter, Putney; 1069, Union, Kurrachee, East Indies; 1070, Sandridge Marine, Sandridge, Victoria; 1071, Maryborough, Victoria; 1072, Corinthian, Sandhurst, Victoria.

We understand that the number of new certificates of initiation issued from the Grand Secretary's office during the last twelve months has been within twenty or thirty of 4,000, being about a hundred and fifty less than in 1857. This, though an apparent loss, evidences an increase in the numbers admitted into the Order, the former province of West Canada being now under an independent constitution; and by the new regulations of Grand Lodge, numbers of certificates have been forwarded in blank to the colonies, the disposal of which has not yet been accounted for, excepting in one or two instances.

A CORRESPONDENT, who gives us his name and the locality he alludes to, writes the following anecdote, tending to show how Masons may baffle persecution by prudent conduct:—"A Lodge working in Spain under the English constitution [the exact locality I for obvious reasons suppress] meets at the house of the Master, a merchant of the place. Now, somehow the police got information of it, and as Masonry is strictly prohibited in Spain, the fraternity were in great consternation. The Master, however, gave out that he should hold a Lodge on the next Thursday, and instead of doing so asked the alcalde and all the principal persons of the place to dinner on that evening. Well, the evening came, and so did the alcalde; the police also were lurking about to take down the name of every person who entered the house; but when the officer of police saw the list, he was astounded, and said to himself, 'Dear me, if all these influential people are Masons, the less I say about it the better, or I shall lose my place!' So the Masons are suffered to meet undisturbed."—*Masonic Mirror*.

## Mark Masonry.

BON ACCORD LODGE (No. 1).—At a meeting held on Wednesday, December 15th, present—Bro. George Harcourt, *M. D.*, W. M.; Bro. J. T. Keddell, as S. W.; Bro. Alex. W. Adair, J. W.; Bro. G. B. Cole, P. M.; Bro. Dr. Norton, Treas.; Bro. W. L. Coliins, Sec.; Bros. G. Lambert, W. H. Davis, J. H. Hammerton, and others—a ballot was

taken for the election of some candidates for advancement, none of whom, however, were present. After the disposal of sundry routine business, the Worshipful Master rose and said, a most pleasing duty fell to his lot, in presenting, in the name of the Bon Accord Lodge, the testimonials voted at its previous meeting, to Bros. Cole and Collins. Masons were told that the hope of reward sweetened labour; the reward they sought was the acknowledgment they had well discharged their duties. To that acknowledgment this Lodge had been pleased to add the elegant presents before him. Bro. Dr. Norton, as one of the co-founders of the Lodge, remarked, that each of its Masters had not only been able, but had thoroughly discharged the duties of his office; and he had no doubt, the Worshipful Master then presiding would, as faithfully as his predecessors, perform the duties of his station. With regard to the Secretary (Bro. Collins), no one knew so well as himself (the Treasurer), the arduous duties he had to discharge; his services were invaluable, and richly deserved the testimonial of the Brethren. Bro. Cole said, he was much gratified in having his services recognized in so marked a manner. It was pleasing to carry, on his retirement from the chair, the approbation of his Brethren. He certainly never contemplated, that in addition to their commendation, he should receive such elegant testimonials. They would be heirlooms, which his children might with pride exhibit in testimony alike of his fidelity and their generosity. Bro. Collins acknowledged his inability to find words adequate for expression of his feelings on the occasion. The testimonial had with him a double value; it not only was a reward for past services, but was given while he was still in office. The present to Bro. Cole was a silver gilt wine cup, and tea cup and saucer, the former bearing this inscription:—"Presented to Bro. George Beauchamp Cole, by the Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masters, in acknowledgment of his services as W. M. in the years 1856 and 1857." The testimonial to Bro. Collins, was a silver wine-cup, bearing this inscription:—"Presented to Brother William Louis Collins, Honorary Secretary, by the Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masters, December 15, 1858."

BON ACCORD LODGE (No. 1).—This celebrated Lodge held its first meeting for the year, under the presidency of its able R. W. M., Bro. George Harcourt, *M. D.*; Bro. J. T. Keddell, S. W.; Bro. Alex. W. Adair, J. W.; and Bro. Barker, P. M.; when, after the confirmation of the minutes, Bro. E. S. Cossens, of No. 7, and S. W., Reg. Sec., and Almoner, No. 27, was unanimously approved and admitted as a joining member.

ST. MARK'S LODGE.—(Scottish Constitution, No. 1).—At a Meeting of this Lodge on the 26th January, Bro. Riseborough Sherran, R. W. M., in a very able speech recommended a union with the G. L. of Mark Masters, and a resolution was come to, authorising him to confer with the R. W. M.'s of the other Scotch Lodges in England, with that object, and to report to the Lodge.

THISTLE LODGE OF MARK MASTERS.—At the meeting of this Lodge, on Friday last, six brethren were advanced to this ancient degree, the ceremony being conducted by Bro. Cotterell, W. M., most correctly and impressively. The meeting itself is noteworthy, as being the first meeting of the first Lodge which has given in its allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters lately established in this country, it having originally worked under the Scottish Constitution. It is unnecessary to enter into the details of the proceedings, which have so long been going on with a view to unite under one head the increasing body of Mark Masons; suffice it to say that they eventuated in a report signed by the W. M. of the Scottish Lodges in London, and which has appeared in our columns, recommending Union. In pursuance of this report, which was adopted at the last meeting of this Lodge, the W. M. was duly authorised to take such steps as he may deem best for the more speedy consummation of the desired union, and most admirably has he executed his delegated trust, for which a vote of thanks was ordered to be placed on the minutes. At the opening of the Lodge, the warrant from the G. L. was read, and, after the usual preliminaries and formalities, the W. M. declared "the Thistle Lodge a duly constituted Lodge, under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England and Wales, &c., the number on the register to be hereafter determined." It is earnestly hoped that the other Scottish Lodges, which have concurred in the advisability of the course adopted by this Lodge, will speedily follow its example and complete what has been so happily commenced. Bro. Alex. Ridgway, Grand Reg., was present at the banquet, and stated that the G. M., Lord Leigh, had derived the highest satisfaction from the event that evening celebrated, adding the assurance of his own gratification, and of that of the Grand Lodge which he represented, at the reception amongst them of the Brethren of the Thistle Lodge.

LEICESTERSHIRE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTERS.—The first meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Bell Hotel, Leicester, on the 15th February.

The Prov. Grand Lodge having been opened, Bro. Clephane, acting as Prov. G. Sec., read the patent from the Right Hon. Lord Leigh, Grand Master of the Order in England and Wales and the Colonies and possessions of the British crown, dated June 23rd, 1858, appointing Bro. William Kelly to be Prov. Grand Master of Mark Masters, in the county of Leicester; and that Brother having been installed, took the chair, and proceeded to make the appointments of Prov. Grand Officers.

The Prov. Grand Master having announced in complimentary terms, that he had appointed Bro. Joseph Underwood (ex-mayor of Leicester) W.M. of the Howe Lodge, No. 21, to be Deputy Prov. Grand Master, the patent of appointment was read, and Bro. Underwood was invested and installed in the chair of Deputy Prov. Grand Master.

The Prov. Grand Master then expressed the sense which he entertained of the honour conferred upon him, by the noble peers, in being permitted to appoint as his Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, Bros. the Right Hon. Earls Howe and Ferrers, who, in the kindest manner, had at once accepted those offices. The following Brethren were then appointed to the other offices, and those who were present were duly invested:—Bros. Pettifor (elected) G. Treas.; E. Clephane, G. Sec.; E. Morris, G. Reg.; W. J. Windram, G.M. Overseer; W. Hardy, G.S. Overseer; J. J. Kinton, G.J. Overseer; G. Bankart, G.S. Deacon; H. Kinder, G.J. Deacon; R. Brewin, G. Dir. of Cers.; W. Millican, G. Sword Bearer; W. S. Bithrey, G. Organist; A. Cummings, G. Pursuivant; and Bros. W. Weare, J. Holland, jun., J. D. Paul, H. E. Emberlin, T. Sheppard, and C. J. Willey, G. Stewards.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Masters was then closed in due form. Howe Lodge (No. 21).—A quarterly meeting of this recently established Lodge of Mark Masters was held at the Bell Hotel, Leicester, on Wednesday, the 9th February. The chair was taken by Brother Kelly, who stated that he had been requested by the W.M., Bro. Underwood, to apologize for his unavoidable absence in London, and a letter was read from Bro. Windram, J.W., apologizing for his absence on account of indisposition. A ballot was taken for Bros. John Sloane, J.D., Thomas Herbert, and Henry Gamble, all of Leicester, and Members of St. John's Lodge, No. 348, and the two former, being in attendance, were duly advanced, as were also Brothers Martin, Nedham, and James Bouskell, of the same Lodge of Masons, who had been balloted for at the first meeting. A ballot was also taken for Bro. the Right Hon. Earl Howe, G.C.H., Prov. G.M. for Leicestershire, as a candidate for the Mark Degree, on the 15th instant. The by-laws proposed at the former meeting having been adopted, the Lodge was closed in harmony.

A Lodge of Emergency was held at the Bell Hotel, Leicester, on Tuesday, the 15th February, for the advancement of the Right Hon. Earl Howe, G.C.H., (who, as Provincial Grand Master for Leicestershire, had at an earlier hour laid the corner stone of the Freemasons' Hall, Leicester): the appointment of officers, which, owing to the absence of the W.M. had been postponed from the last meeting, and other business. The Lodge was then closed with the usual ceremonies.

FOURTH LODGE (No. 19).—A meeting of this Lodge was subsequently held at the same place; present Brother Kelly, Prov. G.M.M. and W.M., in the chair, the Right Hon. Earl Howe, and other brethren. The minutes of the last Lodge having been read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Brothers the Right Hon. the Earl Ferrers, John H. Garner, and John Willis Goodwin, of the John of Gaunt Lodge, No. 766, as candidates, all of whom were duly elected. Bros. Earl Ferrers and Garner were duly advanced as Mark Masters, after which, and the delivery of the lecture of the degree by the Prov. G.M.M., the Lodge was closed in due form.

## Masonic Charities.

### ROYAL FREEMASONS' GIRLS' SCHOOL.

A Quarterly General Court was held at the offices, Great Queen-street, on Thursday, January 13th, Bro. John Udall, V.P., presiding. The minutes having been read and confirmed,

Bro. Binckes moved as a substantive law of the institution, that all petitions from the provinces be forwarded to the Secretary at the office, at least a week before the meeting of the general committee, with every certificate (correctly) filled in, so as to make the absolute laws and the regulations of the Committee of Management agree.

Bro. Adlard seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The report of the Audit Committee was then read, showing a balance in the Treasurer's hands of £577 10s. 3d., out of which the quarterly accounts, amounting £501 7s. 8d., were ordered to be paid.

It was then announced that there would be five vacancies in the school in April, to fill which there were five candidates, viz., E. J. Fitzgerald, of Woodbridge; R. Cook, of Ipswich; and M. G. Saunders, L. M. Bradley, and M. E. Harvey, London, who, being approved by the committee, are recommended for election.

### ROYAL FREEMASONS' BOYS' SCHOOL.

A Quarterly Court was held at the offices, on Monday, the 17th January, Bro. John Hervey, P.G.D., presiding.

The minutes having been read and confirmed, a resolution was brought up for consideration, as recommended by a sub-committee, that the collector should be paid five per cent. on all subscriptions and donations received by him, excepting upon the amounts subscribed upon the Stewards' lists at the annual festivals, upon which he shall only receive three per cent. This was agreed to with an addendum, to the effect that the three per cent, was to apply to all sums upon such lists.

Bro. G. Warriner gave notice of a motion for the next meeting, "That on and after the 1st July, 1860, ten pupils be received into the institution on the payment of £30 per annum each; the admission of such pupils to be subjected to such rules and regulations as the General Committee may determine upon."

A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

The following Analysis of the Subscriptions to the two Schools is extracted from the respective Lists last published. Under the head of "neuter," are included:—1st. Brethren whose residences are partly in London and partly in the country, or whose addresses are not stated; 2nd. The Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter Subscriptions.

	London.	Country.	Neuter.	Totals.
<b>GIRLS' SCHOOL.</b>				
Subscribers, Subscribing Lodges, &c. ...	1048	307	113	1468
Votes to which the Amounts contributed by the above entitle them .....	2188	481	273	2942
<b>BOYS' SCHOOL.</b>				
Subscribers, Subscribing Lodges, &c. ...	667	236	69	972
Votes to which the Amounts contributed by the above entitle them .....	1810	456	277	2543

### ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

At a Meeting of the General Committee of this institution, held at the office, Great Queen Street, on Saturday, Feb. 5, Bro. John Hervey, V.P., P.G.S.D., in the chair, the report of Bros. Lyall and Symonds on provincial organization was presented; authority was given to the sub-committee to print and circulate the same; and it was resolved that the report should be taken into consideration at a Special Court, to be held on Thursday, 31st March, immediately after the close of the Special Court of the Girls' School.

### ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The first Biennial Festival of this most deserving institution was held at Freemasons' Tavern, on the 26th of January, when over 200 Brethren were present. The chair was ably filled by Bro. Wyndham Portal, J.G.W., and the subscriptions amounted to the unprecedented sum of £2,300. There can be no reason why this excellent charity should not have an annual festival.

The Charities' Committee of Wilts have recommended that the following scale of payment towards the charity fund be made by each Lodge and Chapter:—For each member, two shillings per annum; the W. Master on his being installed into a chair in the province, ten shillings and sixpence per annum; the Senior Warden, ditto, five shillings per annum; the Junior Warden, ditto, five shillings per annum; each chair in the Chapter, five shillings per annum; each other officer two shillings and sixpence per annum; each candidate on his initiation, five shillings per annum. The above payments to be made at the end of each year to the Provincial Grand Treasurer, at the same time as the dues to the Provincial Grand Lodge are paid. The Treasurer to open a separate account for the charity fund.

That for the year 1858, the dues for members only be paid; all other dues to be paid from the first of January, 1859.

## Provincial.

From the Masonic Mirror.

### BERKSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

On the 7th of May, 1852, a Grand Lodge was held at Reading, and, after a lapse of six years and a half, the Brethren were again called together on Monday, December 20th, at the Town Hall, Windsor; and, after all, came to a "stale, flat, and unprofitable conclusion." The time and season were alike inconvenient for Brethren who have to travel long distances. At three o'clock there were assembled about forty Brethren, who, on the arrival of the officials, were marshalled with considerable ceremony to advance in due order. The V.W. Bro. R. Gibson, D. Prov. G.M., occupied the throne, and informed the Brethren that, in consequence of an accident, the Provincial Grand Master was unable to attend; and he had directed that the Prov. Grand Lodge was to be adjourned till the 23rd March, when it would be held at Reading, and that then the appointments to office would be made.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was then opened in form—such as it was—being in strength in the west and established in the south; each officer having on his pedestal his responses in writing. A code of by-laws, which had been ordered at a previous meeting, was read.

Bro. How, No. 861, wished to know if these laws had a retrospective effect, or what the laws were that previously governed the province. The Prov. G. Sec. said there were no by-laws previously, and that consequently those now promulgated would take effect after their confirmation.

Bro. How then asked how it was that no summons had been sent to the Buckingham Lodge, either in 1852, or on the present occasion.

The Prov. G. Sec. said he had sent the summons to Uxbridge, where he thought the Lodge was held.

The by-laws were then adopted, and the Provincial Grand Lodge closed, the whole business not occupying an hour.

There was a banquet at the Castle Hotel, the attendance at which was very small.

#### COMING OF AGE OF LORD SKELMERSDALE.

ORMSKIRK.—*Lodge of Harmony, No. 845.*—The Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, who a few weeks ago, was initiated into the mysteries of the Order by dispensation, in the St. George's Lodge at Liverpool, attained his majority on Wednesday, the 15th of December. His mansion, Lathom House, and its grounds, presented a scene of unusual animation. Congratulatory addresses and replies, festive hospitality, music and dancing, decorative and pyrotechnic display, were the order of the day.

The Brethren of the Ormskirk Lodge presented an address upon the occasion. By dispensation granted by the Prov. G.M. of West Lancashire, the Lodge of Harmony, No. 845, of Ormskirk, was opened at Lathom House by the D. Prov. G.M., Sir Thos. Hesketh, supported by Bro. Lord Skelmersdale, and the Prov. Grand Officers, amongst whom we noticed Bros. J. Walmsley, Prov. G. Treas.; Hess, Prov. G.D.; P. Maddox, Prov. G.R.; James Hamer, Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; Lambert, P. Prov. G.D.; Atherton, Allender, J. Pepper, and C. J. Banister, Prov. G. Stewards; and about one hundred and twenty of the Brethren from the Ormskirk, Southport, and Liverpool Lodges.

The minutes having been read, it was agreed to permit the presence of Ladies in the Lodge, and the Brethren were honoured by a visit from the Countess of Derby, and other distinguished persons stopping at Lathom House. Bro. Fairhurst, Secretary, was called upon to read the following address, which was beautifully engrossed on vellum:—

“Lodge of Harmony, No. 845, Ormskirk.

“To Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale.

“My Lord—it is with feelings of unmingled satisfaction that we are thus permitted to show our respect to your lordship this day, being the celebration of your lordship attaining your majority.

“It is highly interesting to such of us as may be considered more immediately your lordship's neighbours,—the more so, as we are witnesses of the high esteem in which you honoured and much respected father was held amongst us. To have known him, was to love and respect him. Such as was the father, may the son be.

“But, my lord, to us as Freemasons—members of the same brotherhood—it is peculiarly interesting to have this opportunity of congratulating your lordship as a Brother, on attaining your majority, and taking your position as a nobleman of the freest land in the world; and it is our earnest prayer that the great Architect of the universe, whose all-seeing eye is ever upon us, may guide and protect you in all things.

“It is evident to all that we are living in eventful times, and it may be that, from your position as a peer of the realm, you will have arduous duties to perform. Nevertheless, my lord, we have a confident hope that the principles of the ancient and honourable Order of which we are members, will encourage you in the performance of every duty, sustain you in every trial, and, with the blessing of a kind Providence, direct all your labours to a successful issue.

“As a landlord, we trust you will be ever found treading the same paths as your late honourable and much-esteemed grandfather, the late Lord Skelmersdale—a nobleman who ever prided himself in the welfare of his tenantry, and whose name will ever be cherished amongst them.

“In conclusion, my lord, we earnestly pray that your lordship may long be spared to us in the enjoyment of every moral and social virtue.

“We are, my lord, on behalf of the Lodge of Harmony, No. 845, your lordship's most humble and obedient servants,

“James Hamer, W.M.; Benjamin Townendrow, S.W.; James Bromley, J.W.; A. B. Goss, P.M.; William Smith, P.M.; John B. Lambert, P.M.; Richard Thomases, Treas.; Enoch Fairhurst, Sec.”

Lord Skelmersdale, in reply, expressed a hope that all his actions would be directed by Masonic sentiments, and that he should endeavour to imitate the example of his father and grandfather, and ever have the interest of Masonry at heart.

His lordship then proceeded to another apartment to receive the address of the inhabitants of Ormskirk.

The dining-room in which the Lodge was held presented a very interesting appearance, there being more than twenty ladies present. The Masonic anthem being sung, the ladies retired.

Bro. Lord Skelmersdale was proposed as a joining member to the Ormskirk Lodge, and invited the Brethren to partake of refreshment.

The Lodge was then closed, and the Brethren returned to Ormskirk, where the Lodge was opened for the purpose of electing the W.M. for the next year. The unanimous election of the members was in favour of the S.W., and he was saluted by the Brethren with the accustomed honours. The Brethren and visitors then adjourned to the banquet, and after the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, they separated.

#### SOMERSETSHIRE.

A Prov. G. Lodge of Emergency was held on the 7th Dec., at the Lamb Inn, Bridgwater, for the purpose of appointing a Provincial Grand Secretary (caused by the resignation of Bro. A. P. Browne), which was presided over by the R. W. Provincial Grand Master, Col. C. K. Tynte, who appeared in excellent health and spirits. The Lodge was opened at high twelve by the W.M. and Brethren of the Lodge of Perpetual Friendship, who received the R.W. Prov. G.M., and his officers with due Masonic honours. The ceremony of installing the Provincial Grand Secretary was performed by the R. W. Prov. G.M., who conferred this distinguished honour upon Bro. Christopher Babbage, of Bridgwater, with the unanimous approbation of the Craft assembled. At the installation, Col. C. J. K. Tynte, R.W. Prov. G.M. for Monmouth, Bro. Randolph, D. Prov. G.M. for Somerset, as well as the officers from the various Lodges, were present. The choice of Prov. G. Sec. has met with the general approval of the province. The business of the Lodge having terminated, it closed in perfect harmony.

#### BRISTOL.

A P.G.L. held on January 28th, a vote of confidence in the M.W.G.M. was unanimously agreed to.

#### CAMBRIDGE.

On Monday last, the 10th January, the annual convocation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cambridgeshire was held at the Lion Hotel, Cambridge, under the presidency of the R.W. Bro. Hall, Prov. G.M., assisted by the Grand Officers of the province.

The Prov. Grand Lodge having been opened in ample form, and the minutes of the last convocation having been read and confirmed,

The R.W. the Prov. Grand Master said, that he had this year convened the Grand Lodge of this province at an earlier period than usual, because he was unwilling that they should be delayed in expressing a strong feeling of confidence in the integrity of the M.W. the Earl of Zetland, the Grand Master of England, and of reprobation of the calumnious attacks which had been made upon him. (Hear, hear). He was rejoiced on looking at the notice paper, to find that such a motion was about to be submitted to them.

Bro. the Rev. A. R. Ward, Grand Chaplain of England, and D. Prov. G.M., then rose to move the following resolution, of which he had given notice:—

“That the members of this Prov. Grand Lodge, viewing with indignation the unfounded imputations on the M.W. Grand Master, contained in the *Masonic Observer*, desire to express their gratification at the manner in which his refutation of these charges has been received by the Craft, their participation in the feelings of confidence and attachment which were unequivocally demonstrated by the Grand Lodge in September last, and their determination to support the Grand Master in the performance of the duties of his high office.”

He said, “Brethren, the proposition which I have to bring forward refers to our old Masonic friend and Grand Master the Earl of Zetland. In bringing it under your notice I feel I shall best consult your wishes by being as brief as possible in my observations; at the same time I wish to state that, so anxious and so determined was I that every Brother should be acquainted with the particulars of the matter to which I am going to call your attention, that a fortnight ago I took the trouble of sending to every Mason in the province a copy of the *Masonic Observer*, containing the calumny upon the Grand Master of which I complain, and also a copy of the *Freemasons' Magazine*—a publication of a far different character—containing the reply of the M.W. the Grand Master to that charge so bitterly urged against him. I believe that every brother present has received those two publications, with the exception of Bro. Ransom, Prov. G. Reg. and I can now only express my regret that they were not sent to him, or rather, that they should have remained in the hands of the Worshipful Master of his Lodge without his presenting them in proper



time. Now, Brethren, I have to tell you—and I am sincerely sorry that such is the case—that there has been for some time past what I may call a party in Masonry—a body of men who systematically oppose what they call ‘the executive’ of Grand Lodge; meaning thereby the views of the M. W. Grand Master and of his warmest friends. It has been generally believed, that this Masonic clique was connected in some way with the province of Oxford, but the moment the knowledge of that fact reached the Oxford brethren, they assembled in Grand Lodge, and most emphatically denied that they had any sympathies in common with the views of the parties connected with the *Masonic Observer*. The accusation brought against the M. W. Grand Master in that publication was made six months ago. No doubt you think that six months is a long space of time, but you should recollect that the Grand Lodge of England meets only once in three months, so that a considerable delay takes place in the settlement of questions of this kind. The accusation which the *Masonic Observer* has brought against the Grand Master is this—I quote the publication itself; it says, ‘We had occasion this time last year to draw attention to the unblushing effrontery with which the principal appointments in Grand Lodge were prostituted to political purposes, and we are sorry to be compelled to occur to this very scandalous subject.’ Now I do think that no accusation could be brought forward so damaging to the Craft as that; for, by impeaching the integrity of the M. W. Grand Master, it completely upsets the universality of the Order. But listen to the Earl of Zetland’s reply. I now read to you the report of his lordship’s speech at the Grand Lodge in September last, as it is reported in that excellent publication, the *Freemasons’ Magazine*.

[The V. W. Brother here read the speech of the M. W. Grand Master.]  
 “The members of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Cambridge must feel that they have a personal interest in the question. We all recollect that on the day when we celebrated the hundredth anniversary of the Scientific Lodge, Lord Zetland, at great inconvenience to himself, attended our meeting, and showed himself kind, courteous, and agreeable to us all. As his lordship’s private friends, then, I ask you to support him in maintaining the dignity of the Grand Master’s chair, and I will by and by state other grounds why you should do so. The province of Oxford has emphatically expressed its disapproval of the calumnies with which his lordship has been assailed; and all I now ask is, that Cambridge should not be behind-hand in following that example. One thing brought forward by the clique to which I have referred, as a complaint against the M. W. Grand Master is, that he did not appoint the Earl of Carnarvon to the office of S. G. W. But who was appointed to that office?—the Earl of Durham—a nobleman initiated in one of the Lodges of this province (the Scientific) and of which, to this moment, he continues a member. This is another strong reason why we should support the M. W. Grand Master. We do not offer any objection to the Earl of Carnarvon, for we believe him to be a good and excellent Mason, but we do deny that politics at all interfered in the selection of the Earl of Durham in preference to him. This is not the proper place to speak of politics, for such topics ought to be excluded from every Masonic Lodge. But those who know my political views know that they are diametrically opposed to those of the Grand Master—and yet he appointed me one of the Grand Chaplains. That does not look like a political animus. What I have put before you I have stated in plain, straightforward language, and I now call upon you to support the dignity of the Grand Master, as it is your Masonic duty to do when you find that he is anonymously attacked.” The Rev. and V. W. Brother concluded his address in the terms of his motion.

Bro. Baxter, P. S. G. W., seconded the motion.

Bro. Ward then moved “That the R. W. Prov. Grand Master be requested to communicate to his lordship the vote of the Prov. Grand Lodge,” and Bro. Baxter having seconded the resolution, it was unanimously agreed to.

The R. W. Prov. G. M. said, he most cordially approved of the course which the Provincial Grand Lodge had taken in this matter, and should have great pleasure in conveying to Lord Zetland the votes to which they had been pleased to agree.

#### SUFFOLK.

A special meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Suffolk was held on Wednesday, Feb. 16th, at the White Horse Hotel, Ipswich. At four o’clock, the time named in the summons, about fifty Brethren were in attendance, and the Prov. Grand Lodge was opened in the large room used by the Lodge of Perfect Friendship.

The V. W. D. Prov. G. M. said, that he considered it his duty to call the Brethren of the province together to express their opinions on a gross attack made upon the honour and independence of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Suffolk, involving as it did their character as men and Masons; and that they might thus, as a body, give a solemn denial to the foul charge made against it. They were aware that Suffolk was, in the absence of a Prov. G. M., under the control of the

Grand Registrar; and at the Prov. Grand Lodge held in September last, Bro. Roxburgh, who by virtue of his office presided, was accompanied by several Masons of eminence from London; and at the banquet, in proposing the health of the M. W. Grand Master, thought proper to allude to a most gross attack that had been made on that distinguished nobleman in the *Masonic Observer*, a publication which, till then, they in Suffolk had never heard of; the charge being that he had prostituted his powers, in the appointment of Grand Officers, to political purposes; his Lordship had indignantly repelled the slander, and the Grand Lodge of England on the occasion echoed his manly denial. Bro. Havers afterwards followed Bro. Roxburgh, with some observations on this “most unwarrantable, unfounded, and wicked attack” on the Earl of Zetland, than whom, as Bro. Havers said, “England’s peerage does not possess one nobleman whose honour is more pure and spotless, and whose integrity and singleness of purpose is more unquestionable.” The Prov. Grand Lodge of Suffolk took no part in this matter, for they were till then in ignorance of the matter, and for listening to these statements, they were now charged, forsooth, with “sickly scyophancy.” The brother who made that charge should have remembered his Masonic obligation—neither to slander a brother Mason himself, nor suffer another to do so. The wisest man had truly said “Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.” Bro. Freeman then read Bro. Binckes’s letter, published in our last number, in which the Prov. Grand Lodge of Suffolk was charged with “sickly scyophancy.” Now the first charge, he thought, might be treated with contempt, but seeing how it had been followed up by Bro. Binckes, one of the “*Observer* party,” he decided on calling them together as early as convenient, and having thus laid the matter before them, he would leave the resolutions in their hands.

Bro. Martin, P. Prov. D. G. M., in rising to move the first resolution, referred to the scandalous charge made against the M. W. G. M., and the difficulty that he must find in so filling the few offices that were annually at his disposal, as to satisfy all who were ambitious of Grand Lodge honours. The Earl of Zetland had, by his conduct and character, won the esteem of the whole Craft, save this small clique, who would disturb his rule. With regard to Bro. Binckes’s letter, nothing, in his opinion, could be more unmasonic; and having removed the slander, as it first seemed, from Bro. Havers, and brought to our own doors, it was their duty to repel it in the strongest terms; and entirely concurring in the summons, he moved the first resolution as follows:—

“The Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk, having a high consideration of the candour and integrity of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, desires to express its great regret that any man, or body of men, should impute false, dishonourable, or disgraceful motives to him, such as those suggested in the *Masonic Observer*.”

The resolution was seconded in a few words by Bro. Spencer Freeman, Prov. S. G. W., and carried unanimously.

Bro. W. P. Mills, P. Prov. S. G. W., had no hesitation in saying, that the proceedings of all assemblies should be open to fair comment; but such notices should be candid and just. He firmly believed the conduct of the M. W. Grand Master was undeserving the slanderous attacks made upon him, and he considered the Grand Lodge had, by its unanimous voice, avowed that sentiment. He then moved the second resolution:—

“The members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Suffolk beg to offer to the Most Worshipful Grand Master their regret and unqualified sympathy upon the occasion, and to express to him their continued and unabated confidence in his honour and strict impartiality in the discharge of his Masonic duties.”

Bro. Gissing, Prov. J. G. W., seconded the resolution.

The Rev. Bro. Sanderson, Prov. G. Chaplain, said, that besides expressing their confidence in one they had trusted for fifteen years, they had now to perform a duty to themselves. They heard at their Prov. Grand Lodge how Bro. Havers vindicated the Grand Master; and at the same time Bro. Roxburgh suggested—as was quite true—that it was probable they had never heard of the offending journal; and for being quiet auditors, Bro. Binckes—he supposed he must call him Bro. Binckes—accused them of “sickly scyophancy.” He would ask, were these such epithets as ought to pass from brother to brother? He called on them, by the respect they owed to themselves as Masons, and by their fidelity to the Grand Lodge under whose banners they met, to repudiate the vile attack made upon them, by adopting the resolution he would now propose:—

“The Provincial Grand Lodge also most indignantly repels the offensive term which has been applied to them, of ‘sickly scyophants,’ and would merely refer any brother, or the editor of any Masonic publication, using such terms, to that portion of the obligation of a Master Mason which has more particular reference to ‘slander.’”

This was seconded by Bro. Jennings; and a Committee appointed to prepare the address to the M.W.G.M.

#### LEICESTERSHIRE.

The corner stone of a new Masonic Hall was laid at Leicester, on the 18th February, by Earl Howe, P.G.M., supported by a large and influential body of Brethren. The entire cost is to be £1500.

#### WARWICKSHIRE.

The P.G.L. having voted an address to Bro. J. W. Boughton Leigh, on his retirement from the office of D.P.G.M. after 10 years' zealous service, it was presented to the worthy Brother, at his seat, Brownsoner Hall, by the R.W. Lord Leigh, P.G.M., accompanied by a distinguished deputation. The D.P.G.M. having made a suitable reply, the proceedings terminated with a superb banquet.

#### EAST LANCASHIRE.

On Thursday last, the 3rd March, the quarterly meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge for East Lancashire was held at the Peel Institute, Acerrington.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened at twelve o'clock, and at one o'clock, p.m., the following Prov. Grand Officers were present:—Bros. Albert Hudson Roys, Dep. Prov. G.M.; William Romaine Callender, jun., Prov. G. Treas.; Thomas Faulkner Pollitt, Prov. G. Reg.; John Tunnah, Prov. G. Sec.; Thomas Parker, Prov. J. G. D.; Robert Munn, jun., Prov. G. Supt. Works; Reuben Mitchell, Prov. G. S. B.; John Aspinwall, Prov. G. Organist; William Roberts, Prov. G. Purs.; William Dawson, Prov. G. Tyler; and four Prov. G. Stewards. The Prov. Lodge having been opened in due form, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and the sum of £10 voted as a donation to Bro. Pendlebury, of the Lodge of Faith, No. 430, Radcliffe Bridge.

The votes of the Province for the Royal Benevolent Fund for decayed Masons, were awarded to Bro. Barlow, of Haslingden; Bros. H. Maiden, of Bury; J. Shaw, of Acerrington, and E. J. Marley, of Blackburn, were appointed auditors of the accounts for the past year, and the Lodge was closed in ancient and solemn form.

#### LANCASHIRE WEST.

LIVERPOOL.—*Downshire Lodge, No. 864.*—On Tuesday, the 28th December, the Brethren of this Lodge celebrated the festival of St. John, by dining together in the Lodge room, Crown Hotel, Lime-street. Bro. James Heyes, W.M., presided, and proposed the health of "The Queen;" "The Prince Consort;" &c. The W.M. said, the next toast he had the pleasure to give, was "The M.W.G.M. of England, the Earl of Zetland." He could speak from his own experience of the manner in which his lordship conducted the affairs of Grand Lodge. A more worthy and straightforward man they cannot have to preside over them. He regretted to say there were some Ephraimites amongst the Brethren in Grand Lodge.—They had come from Oxford, and were called the Oxford party. To them is attributable all the unpleasantness and unbrotherly conduct, which was manifested at the last meeting of the Grand Lodge. But he was happy to say, their M.W.G.M. still reigned in the affections of the Brethren, notwithstanding the attacks which had been made, and the charge of partiality brought against him by the Brethren alluded to.

#### YORKSHIRE (WEST).

A Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Dewsbury, on Wednesday, Jan. 5th, by R.W. George Fearnley, M.D., D. Prov. G.M.

The Prov. Grand Lodge having been opened in due form, the D. Prov. Grand Master announced, that through an unavoidable engagement, the R.W. Prov. G.M. the Right Hon. the Earl of Mexborough, could not be present.

The minutes of the Prov. Grand Lodge, held at Sheffield, on the 6th October, were read and confirmed; and we would here draw particular attention to one clause in those minutes, as follows:—

"That in the opinion of this Prov. Grand Lodge, it is highly desirable that an effort should be made by the Craft on behalf of the Boys' Institution, to increase its accommodation for inmates to an equality with the Girls' School. That with this view, this Prov. Grand Lodge requests the committee of the governors of the Boys' Institution, to organize a Canvass for subscriptions to enlarge the present building to the requisite extent; and feeling confident that such an appeal to the Brethren will be liberally responded to, this Prov. Grand Lodge grants the sum of one hundred guineas from its funds in aid of the proposed enlargement; the votes in respect of this grant to be secured in perpetuity to the Prov. Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master of this province for the time being, in equal proportions."

A motion to form a canvassing committee in the province on behalf of the Masonic charities was brought forward and discussed; but was deferred until the next Prov. Grand Lodge, in order to obtain further

information, but in the meantime the Prov. Grand Secretary is to issue a circular to the W.M. of each Lodge in the province, calling their attention to the state of the Masonic charities, and to impress upon them the necessity and importance of calling upon their Brethren to support the different charities, particularly the Boys' Institution.

#### A D D R E S S

PRESENTED TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS  
PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM OF PRUSSIA,  
ON HIS  
MARRIAGE WITH THE PRINCESS ROYAL OF ENGLAND,  
BY MASONIC LODGE, No. 431, BALLYMENA.

To Brother His Royal Highness,

PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM OF PRUSSIA.

*May it please your Royal Highness,*

WE the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Members of Masonic Lodge, No. 431, Ireland, following our daily avocations in Ballymena, a town in the County of Antrim, have little or no opportunity of witnessing the important events of the times, and therefore have less reason for participating in public excitement than those whose lot is cast in more populous or influential communities. But we know enough to be assured that the present year has beamed most auspiciously on our country in the social alliance which has drawn Prussia and Great Britain together, and which has given to both the pledge of enduring friendship.

We, in our humble condition, have warmly sympathised in the demonstrations of joy which have so vividly, and so sincerely, pervaded our country on the day that the Royal Families of the two great Protestant Powers of Europe mutually established that bond of union which is of God's own ordinance, and embraces within it all the elements of love and peace, to the promotion of which our Brotherhood aims in its subordinate but widely extended influence. And if we have been tardy in expressing our congratulations upon an event of such gladness, and to one who is such an ornament to our Craft, and who in his own realm is, as it were, the key-stone of the Royal Arch of Masonry, we pray that our obscurity, and our remoteness from the centre of rejoicing, may be graciously received as our plea; and that in token thereof, your Royal Highness will consent to accept the accompanying memorial of our own devotion, which has been formed by our own hands, and though, in itself, worthless, and of very perishable materials, yet in symbols, shadows forth the mystic rudiments of our Great Craft which embodies observances as ancient as the oldest works of man, and principles more sound than the most enduring structures of time.

Heartily we pray that it may please the will of the Great and Supreme Architect of the Universe to vouchsafe to your Royal Highness, and your illustrious Partner, a long, happy, and glorious career; and after this life is ended to attain everlasting joy and felicity.

(Signed)

ABRAHAM KIDD, W. MASTER.  
JOHN R. MATHEWS, SEN. W.  
JAMES A. O'NEILL, JUN. W.  
DAVID M'KILLOP, SECRETARY.

#### R E P L Y .

BERLIN, October 24th, 1858.

R. Worshipful Sir—It was with the greatest satisfaction that I received your very valuable present; and it afforded me the most heartfelt pleasure to observe that the Brethren of the Ballymena Lodge have so warmly sympathised in the establishment of that bond of union which, I am sure, will be the greatest blessing of my future life. Expressing my very sincere thanks for your great kindness, I assure you that I feel all those emotions of gratitude which your affectionate address, and cordial wishes, are calculated to inspire. I request you, R.W. Sir and Brother, to take the earliest opportunity of communicating to the illustrious Lodge over which you preside, the assurance of my sincerest gratification and thankfulness. May the Great Architect of the Universe be propitious to the Ballymena Lodge; and may He shed upon you, the officers and Brethren of the Lodge, the inexhaustible fruits of His benevolence.—Saluting you by the Sacred Numbers, I am yours fraternally,

FREDERICK WILLIAM,  
PRINCE OF PRUSSIA.

To ABRAHAM KIDD, Esq., M.D., R.W.M.  
of the Lodge, Ballymena, County of  
Antrim, Ireland.

GRAND LODGE CLUB.

At a numerously attended meeting, comprising representatives from many London and Provincial Lodges, held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, 2nd March, Bro. J. H. Hearn, V.P., in the chair :

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The letter from the President of the Board of General Purposes, relative to the future management and disposition of the property belonging to the Society, and situate in Great Queen Street, was read and maturely considered—the following being the answers recommended to the various questions, viz :—

I. Are a Library, Reading, and Refreshment Rooms necessary, and would they be acceptable to the Craft generally ?

Yes, if the admission be free to every Mason who is a subscribing member of a Lodge.

II. If it be found practicable, will it be desirable to devote the necessary property solely and exclusively to Masonic uses ?

It is desirable that rooms shall be provided for the meetings of Lodges and Chapters, and that they be devoted exclusively to Masonic purposes.

III. Are the Craft prepared to submit to some diminution of their annual income, for the purpose of keeping such property sacred to Masonry ?

Yes, to an extent necessary for the provision of the accommodation referred to in the answer to the previous question.

IV. If it should be found desirable hereafter, that an annual subscription (which would necessarily be of very small amount) should be required, to entitle Brethren to the uses of separate Reading and Refreshment Rooms, what support would it probably receive from your Lodge or the members thereof ?

Any subscription is undesirable, as creating an invidious distinction between Masons.

Lastly. If it can be shown that a considerable outlay for the purpose of giving increased accommodation to the Craft, and at the same time very much extending the Tavern, would be productive of an adequate return, would such a proceeding be expedient and desirable ?

Yes, and this plan is strongly recommended.

Five Brethren were unanimously elected members of the Club, and four others proposed for election at the next meeting.

Resolved, "That the Bye-Laws and List of Members be printed."

The quarterly communication agenda paper was discussed, and the Brethren then proceeded to their seats in G.L.

By order,

FREDERICK BINCKES, Hon. Sec.,

To whom it requested all nominations for election at the meeting in June be addressed, on or before 30th April, at 3, Lawn Villas, South Lambeth, London, S.

London, March 5th, 1859.

THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND THE EXECUTIVE.

On the 6th January, a meeting, convened by Bro. Warren, was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, for the purpose of considering the present situation of the Craft with regard to Masonic publications. Amongst those present we noticed, Bros. T. H. Hall, Prov. G.M. for Cambridgeshire; F. Roxburgh, G. Reg.; Pulteney Scott, S.G.D.; Havers, P.S.G.D.; J. B. King, P.J.G.D.; Jennings, G.D.C.; J. L. Evans, P.G.S.B.; J. Masson, P.G.S.B.; A. A. Le Veau, P.G.S.B.; Diplock; H. G. Warren; C. Hutton Gregory; Warrington; Hyde Clarke; Beaumont; C. Locock Webb; Freeman; F. Slight; N. Bradford; E. S. Snell; the Rev. C. Dickenson; Algernon Perkins; R. Warner Wheeler; &c., &c.

Communications were received from many other well known Brethren, regretting their inability to attend, and signifying their willingness to share in the objects of the meeting.

The Senior Grand Officer present, Bro. T. H. Hall, Prov. G.M. for Cambridgeshire, having been requested to take the chair, addressed the meeting, and stated that the object for which it had been called was to consider the best means of establishing or supporting a periodical publication connected with Freemasonry, which should be conducted in an independent and impartial spirit, and should give a truthful report of such proceedings as might be proper to be published.

The following resolution having been moved and seconded, was carried unanimously:—

1. "That in the opinion of this meeting, it is indispensable that the Craft should possess an independent, truthful, and temperately conducted journal."

Bro. Warren, at the request of the meeting, entered into an explanation of the financial position of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, of his own connexion with it, and as to the manner in which it had been conducted whilst under his management; and stated the general principles which he desired to carry out to render the *Magazine* the organ of the Craft.

Many questions were put to Bro. Warren, and satisfactorily replied to; and after a discussion, in which many Brethren took part, the following resolutions were proposed *seriatim*, and carried unanimously:—

2. "That this meeting approves of the manner in which the *Freemasons' Magazine* has been conducted of late, and considers it worthy of the support of the Craft."

3. "Having reference to the explanation now given by the Editor as to the losses which he has incurred in carrying on the *Magazine*, this meeting—with the view of securing its continuance, but without in any way fettering the independence of its management, and under the conviction that the journal will continue to be conducted in a fair and impartial manner—resolves to enter into a subscription, with the view, as far as possible, of enabling the Editor to meet such losses; and the Brethren present pledge themselves to use their influence in increasing the number of annual subscribers, both amongst Lodges and the Brethren generally."

4. "That Bro. Algernon Perkins be requested to act as Treasurer to the fund about to be raised."

5. "That Bro. C. Locock Webb, P.M., No. 4; Bro. E. S. Snell, P.M., No. 5; Bro. Fred. Slight, P.M., No. 109; Bro. Chas. Hutton Gregory, P.M., No. 233, and Bro. C. Beaumont, P.M., No. 661, be nominated a Committee to act with the Treasurer, in collecting and applying the funds about to be raised, in conformity with the foregoing resolutions."

6. "That the thanks of the meeting be given to Bro. Hall, for his kindness in taking the chair."

A subscription list was then opened, and a sum of about £130 contributed in the room. It was agreed that subscriptions should be paid to the Treasurer, to any Member of the Committee; or to Bro. E. S. Snell, Hon. Secretary, 27, Albemarle-street, Piccadilly, W.

LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE.

The following is the full return of the numbers polled for the respective candidates, at the election at Grand Lodge, on the 1st inst. We publish it, considering that the numbers for the unsuccessful as well as the successful candidates should always be declared:—

ELECTED.		
Sheen, Jas. R. ....	237	186
Gale, Saml. ....	19	166
Lambert, Geo. ....	234	159
Young, Wm. ....	11	154
Binckes, Fred. ....	11	150
Burrett, Geo. ....	188	148
Adams, T. A. ....	196	146
Barnes, John ....	30	146
Howard, Geo. ....	85	144
Collard, Robt. ....	168	140
Paas, Wm. ....	30	138
Gurton, John ....	211	124
NOT ELECTED.		
Nicholson, Jer. ....	70	118
Odell, Henry ....	155	117
Warren, H. G. ....	202	116
Garrod, Hen. ....	206	107
Clements, Jno. ....	25	99
Lee, Chas. ....	9	90
Lewis, Thos. E. ....	53	81

## Correspondence.

To the Editor.

"EPHRAIMITES."

Sir,—An old proverb runs thus, "Give a dog a bad name and hang him." Now I beg to offer, with this proverb as a kind of text, a few remarks which I think are called for in the present state of our affairs. If you agree with me, you will insert this letter, if not, you will omit it, and I shall not impute discourtesy to you for differing with me.

I would first observe that certain members of Grand Lodge, whom as they are not actuated by party spirit, I will not call a "party," have long ago acquired a bad name. No name therefore is now too bad for them. I mean those who in an independent spirit (which must be carefully distinguished from a party spirit), have determined to uphold at once the dignity and the independence of Grand Lodge, as the governing body of the Craft. They have been at different times designated by different names. First of all, the "Observer Party;" then the "Oxford Party;" and last of all, "Ephraimites." This last happy idea originated in the fertile brain of a bright Liverpool Mason, who, in a truly Masonic (?) spirit strove to pay his mite of courtship and loyalty to the Ministerial Clique. May he be rewarded with the broad purple, sit on the Dais in G.L. to his heart's content, and swell the obsequious majority, of which Brother Havers is the enviable and envied leader.

This worthy cotton lord, or sugar boiler, or whatever he may be, Brother James Heyes, W.M. of the Devonshire Lodge, Liverpool, No. 564, could not however even get up his facts correctly. But he wanted, as we have said, to say something, as every one does, on the occasion of his Installation, and not knowing exactly what to say, he fell foul of the first purple that came uppermost, who happened to be the Oxford Masons. "There are some Ephraimites," he says, "in Grand Lodge. They come from Oxford, and are called the Oxford Party." And then he proceeds to attribute all the "unpleasantness and unbrotherly conduct" which had, in his opinion, agitated G.L. at its previous meeting, to the unfortunate Province of Oxford.

Now I do not for an instant suspect that province of any party spirit in that direction. If it is the case it has become so lately. In November last, they declared on the other side, at least they declared for the Ministerialists. They may not like the charge, as tending to a renunciation of their independence, but it is nevertheless the fact.

They have however their champion. Forth comes a bold Oxfordshire P.M., all the way from Kent, to do battle with this Liverpool man, and in a few common-places about charity, thinks that "we must not impute other than honourable motions to those with whom we differ in opinion," and opines that the Liverpool assailant of Oxfordshire has not made himself acquainted with the proceedings of the glorious meeting of the Grand Lodge of that province, in November last. Brave Oxfordshire P.M.! Happy Oxford Masons!!!

But if on the one hand the Oxford Masons deny that they have sacrificed their independence, and the "Oxfordshire P.M." pats them on the back, surely the Independent Brethren may, on the other hand, repudiate the "Ephraimite" spirit with which their Liverpool assailant charges those members of Grand Lodge whom he dignifies with the name of a "Party." Does not this astute person see that the "Party" is on the other side? That if there is Party spirit anywhere, it is on the side of that magnanimous and energetic debater, whose willing disciple, whose Liverpool mouth-piece he has made himself! Look at the Constitution of Grand Lodge. Without wishing to say anything offensive of the Grand Master, it is natural that he, or any one filling his high office, should appoint, as Grand Officers, those who support his measures (I of course mean his Masonic measures); and thus they are bound as it were by a tie of gratitude to continue to support him; and so others follow in their track as the safest path to advancement. Thus (probably unconsciously) a Ministerialist "Party" is formed. A leader with a fair amount of eloquence, and some powers of argument, easily commands their votes, and they in their earnest desire to prove their loyalty and zeal, forget in this same loyalty, alike their own independence and that of Grand Lodge; attribute Party spirit to those who do remember that Grand Lodge (and not any one, or two, or three individuals) is the governing body of the Craft, and are readily supported in their mistaken views by the obsequious editor of the "newly-organised Magazine."

There is of course no party spirit in the Grand Officers' Mess, at which the business paper of the evening is discussed previous to the opening of Grand Lodge, although singularly enough the Dais always do vote together; but the Grand Lodge Club, where the same proceedings take place, is a party affair, although openly and avowedly its members only come to a conclusion if they can, and do not always vote together.

Again, if any one dares to attempt to assert the independence of Grand Lodge, and requests (for instance) that a paper on which their own votes are to be taken, be first submitted for their consideration, what so easy for one of the loyalists to raise the "Party" war-cry, or to quote the Ancient Landmarks, against the offender, or easier still, to say something so strongly personal, as to send him straight out of the room and get rid of him at once?

When will our Brethren have the pluck to assert their own rights; to shake off this Party monopoly; to see that the Ephraimites are neither from Oxford, or from the Grand Lodge Club, or from the Observer, or from the country, but from the Dais, from the Ministerialists, and, by making one or two determined efforts, shew the habitues of Grand Lodge that the country not only has its representatives, but that those representatives have voices, and wills, and force, and power, and majority?

I am, Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,  
FAIR PLAY.

January 31st, 1859.

To the Editor.

SIR AND BROTHER,—In a letter which appeared in your number of 20th Dec. last, I announced my intention to set forth in the next number of your publication "a statement of facts bearing on the affairs of G.L. for the last two or three years," my object being to endeavour to clear away the clouds of mystification which have been thrown around the proceedings of a much-abused

section of the brethren, by presenting a brief résumé of the measures they have been chiefly instrumental in introducing, supporting, and carrying.

At the Quarterly Communication of 7th March, 1855, it was resolved, on the motion of Bro. R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.H., seconded by Bro. Rev. G. R. Portal, that a pocket edition of the Book of Constitutions should be printed, the motion being opposed by the majority of the members on the Dais, on the ground that this innovation would be the means of rendering the Craft too well acquainted with the laws under which it is governed, and so be productive of increased discussion.

On September 5th was adopted a resolution providing for the present system under which the elections for the various Boards are conducted, Bro. H. G. Warren—at that time, true to his first principles—proposing, and Bro. Rawson seconding the motion.

On December 5th, Bro. Rev. G. R. Portal proposed, and Bro. W. W. Beach seconded, the following resolution, "That a paper stating the business to be transacted at every Quarterly Communication be placed in the hands of every member on his entrance into G.L." This was adopted, but

On March 5th, 1856, the non-confirmation of the minutes, so far as this resolution was concerned, was unsuccessfully attempted, though the proposition received the support of the majority of the G. Officers.

On 19th November, the report from the Committee specially appointed to consider the question, recommending the formation of a Colonial Board was adopted; and at the same meeting, Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon carried his motion for an alteration in the day of meeting of the Board of Masters, so that Masons resident in the country might have earlier notice of the business to be transacted in Grand Lodge.

In these various propositions I challenge the most prejudiced of our opponents to detect anything of a factious or party spirit. They are all eminently calculated to improve the efficiency of our legislative system, and to facilitate the working of its machinery; and experience has proved that their introduction has realised all the advantages expected by their promoters. I have not alluded to the discussions with reference to the appointment of the Colonial Board, nor have I mentioned the Canadian question. The latter is a subject of such magnitude and importance as entirely to preclude the possibility of adequately treating it in this communication. This, however, I may fairly affirm, that had the interest taken in the matter by Bro. Beach been duly appreciated, and his representations attended to; had our views in support thereof been favourably received, and had the just demands of our transatlantic brethren met with proper consideration, the magnificent province of Canada would have remained an appanage of the English Grand Lodge. We urged concession—the G.M. and his advisers upheld prerogative—the usual result followed—demands were more forcibly made—the concessions previously refused were now tendered—"too late"—the banner of independence was unfurled, and the allegiance of Canada for ever withdrawn. It is, however, a subject for hearty congratulation that our Canadian brethren have evinced the most sincere desire for the maintenance of amicable relations with our G.L., and it is to be earnestly hoped that the fraternal feeling now existing may never be disturbed. It is generally understood that "by-gones are to be by-gones," and I have only cursorily glanced at the past for the purpose of placing in its proper light the conduct of those against whom the shafts of obloquy have been unceasingly directed.

I am, Sir and Brother,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,  
FREDERICK BINCKES.

London, 5th March, 1859.

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