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THERE was a very full attendance of Brethren in GRAND LODGE on Wednesday, the 3rd instant. The Throne was occupied by the M.W.G.M., who was supported by the D.G.M.

The hall was experimentally lighted by burners placed in the ceiling, as in the Houses of Parliament, the effect of which was very good. The ventilation was not so successful: streams of cold air came pouring upon the defenceless heads of the Brethren, many of whom enveloped themselves in pocket-handkerchiefs of every conceivable color, the effect of which was rather striking than beautiful; and at last the chandeliers were lighted in the vain hope of preventing the draught.

The Lighting Committee deserve great credit for the pains they have taken in the matter, and we consider the experiment satisfactory. What is now wanted, is rather more light in the ceiling, which would bring out the coloring more fully than on the last occasion, and the introduction of fresh air (heated if necessary) at the sides of the hall, above the level of the heads of the company, by which means all down draught would effectually be prevented. This experiment has been found to answer perfectly in the French hospitals.

As soon as G.L. was opened, W. Bro. BEACH, M.P., rose to ask a question on a point of Privilege, but was overruled by the M.W.G.M., who begged him to wait till after the confirmation of the minutes, when he stated that the Chairman of the COMMITTEE OF MASTERS had refused to receive a notice of a motion relating to the examination of the children of the Freemasons' Schools, as not being within the province of G.L., and Bro. BEACH desired to know if it were in the power of the said COMMITTEE to refuse to receive any motion for discussion in G.L.

The M.W.G.M. considered that though the Book of Constitutions was silent on the point, the Chairman was justified in exercising his discretion on the matter.

Upon this case we have to observe, first, that on former occasions when questions of Privilege have been raised by the present D.G.M. and R.W. Bro. BEADON, they were allowed to take precedence of the confirmation of the minutes; and next, that the COMMITTEE OF

MASTERS is simply a Committee for receiving information of what is to be brought forward in G.L., and that to permit its Chairman (a Past Grand Officer) to stop any question he may think fit from being brought before GRAND LODGE, is to give to an inferior and irresponsible Officer a power granted by the Constitution to the M.W.G.M. alone, and that only under very special circumstances, (where "antient landmarks" are affected) and is entirely subversive of the constitutional and supreme authority of GRAND LODGE to decide on all matters affecting the interests of the Craft.

The M.W.G.M. was re-elected, as was the Grand Treasurer.

A letter from the P.G.M. of Quebec resigning his appointment, and the reply of the M.W.G.M. were entered on the minutes.

The M.W.G.M. proposed that the satisfaction of himself and of GRAND LODGE at the able manner in which the arrangements for the reception of H.R.H. PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM of PRUSSIA, had been made by Bro. JENNINGS, G.D.C., should be recorded on the minutes, which was unanimously agreed to, and Bro. JENNINGS expressed his acknowledgement in suitable terms. The grants proposed by the BOARD of BENEVOLENCE were also agreed to.

The reports of the BOARD of GENERAL PURPOSES, and of the COLONIAL BOARD, were received and entered on the minutes.

A MEMORIAL from Brethren at Hobart Town, relating to the suspension of Lodge No. 781, by the P.G.M. of TASMANIA, was read.

The D.G.M., in a very able speech, moved the confirmation of the suspension, and argued, that the steps taken by the P.G.M. of TASMANIA had been in strict accordance with the Book of Constitutions.

W. Brother WARREN, thought that all the correspondence relating to the question should be printed for the information of G.L. before any action were taken.

W. Brother the Rev. G. R. PORTAL, deprecated any farther delay in dealing with the appeal, in which view W. Brother ARIA concurred, and the motion was carried.

AN APPEAL from Lodge No. 860 was withdrawn.

W. Brother HAYERS proposed "that no motion to alter the amount of any grant recommended by the BOARD of BENEVOLENCE shall be entertained in GRAND LODGE unless previous notice thereof shall have been given at the COMMITTEE OF MASTERS." Upon this an animated debate took place, the motion being supported by W. Brother SYMONDS and others, and opposed

by W. Brothers SAVAGE, SINGER, and the D.G.M., who recommended its withdrawal; to which W. Brother HAINES very Masonically assented.

The motion, had it been carried, would have had the effect of disfranchising all P.M.'s and Wardens (so far as their votes are concerned), who are none of them entitled to attend the COMMITTEE of MASTERS.

GRAND LODGE adjourned at a little after 11 P.M.

OUR EXECUTIVE are certainly unfortunate in the management of the Colonial Lodges. No sooner have the Canadians decided upon self-government, than the oldest Lodge in Tasmania threatens a similar course of proceeding, and sends us home a heap of correspondence which, though not uninteresting, is far too long to publish.

We cannot say we admire the blustering tone of the memorial presented on Wednesday to GRAND LODGE, though at the same time we are ready to admit that the advisers of the G.M. have scarcely acted wisely in recommending the appointment of the Rev. R. H. EWING as P.G.M. of Tasmania.

In the first place, a Presbyterian Minister is not ordinarily the fittest person in the world, from his training and habits of life, to preside over a body of men of mixed opinions and various callings. It is moreover evident that whatever Mr. EWING's qualifications may have been in other respects, as a working Mason they are *nil*.

Then, again, what could be more ill-judged than to appoint a P.G.M. at the recommendation of the Launceston Brethren, without the concurrence of the Lodge at Hobart Town, which is situated 120 miles off, and is the oldest in the Province? Are there no maps in Great Queen Street? or are they never opened?

If the "self-government" of the Colonial Lodges, of which we have lately heard so much, was intended to be anything else than a sham, and if it had really been desired that the wish of the Province as to the person to be appointed to the high office of P.G.M. should be ascertained, a circular ought to have been addressed to every Tasmanian Lodge, desiring them to meet on a given day, and make a recommendation to the M.W.G.M. A hole-and-corner meeting at one end of the Province, got up in a hurry, and, as it would seem, for the very purpose of excluding the Senior Lodge from all participation in the affair, is nothing but a cloak for a job, and must infallibly cause ill-feeling and discontent.

The correspondence between the late P.G.M. for Quebec, and the M.W.G.M., or rather the G.R., will be perused with melancholy interest.

That the EXECUTIVE should still persist in disbelieving that the Canadian secession would have been prevented had their grievances been at once redressed, and their petitions replied to, in place of being consigned to the waste paper basket for three long years, is not wonderful. When did a doctor ever kill his patient and not vow that the case was incurable? The EXECUTIVE, however, are involved in this dilemma. Either their own Authorities in Canada are right when they say that

the secession might have been prevented if all just ground for complaint had been removed four years ago, or, they have committed the folly of asking the opinion of men who are ignorant of the subject about which they were desired to write, as well as of appointing as P.G.M.'s, persons who are, according to their own declaration, incompetent to form an opinion upon the state of their own provinces.

It is doubtless vexatious enough to the Administration, to find that the Canadian secession has been accomplished with the most complete and technical regularity; with much greater regard for Masonic jurisprudence than was evinced by the York seceders when they established the GRAND LODGE of London.

That the advisers of the M.W.G.M. will not at present recommend the recognition of the Ancient Grand Lodge of Canada is not unnatural, though how such a step would violate "Masonic unity," when there is already a Masonic trinity in her MAJESTY'S dominions, we are quite at a loss to conceive.

That the Canadian independence will ultimately be acknowledged, we have no doubt whatever, believing, as we do, that the Masons in London have no right to govern the Masons at Toronto a moment longer than the latter like to allow them to do so.

No recognition will, however, take place, till a union has been effected between the two Lodges at present acting in opposition to each other in Canada; and when that has been accomplished, the "violation of Masonic unity" by independent English Lodges, must be discouraged, by a rigid refusal on the part of the Canadians to hold any intercourse whatever with them.

TO administer according to existing laws is the first duty of those placed in authority. Expediency is by no means recognized as a principle of the legislature, but rather as an ignoble way of dealing with a difficult question. If fortuitous circumstances should grant to its use a temporary success, not the less assuredly will it draw forth the reprobations of posterity. It may perhaps for the time elicit praise—condemnation seldom fails to follow. But to depart from distinct rules, to swerve from clearly stated laws, for the sake of convenience, is a line of conduct which involves him who pursues it in a far more serious responsibility. Societies and States are alike bound by laws framed for their internal regulation, and strict obedience must be yielded in order to secure their permanent prosperity. Freemasons acknowledge the "Book of Constitutions" or "Regulations for the Government of the Craft" as of paramount importance. In this book it is written that the Board of Masters is a Committee constituted in order "that the representatives of Lodges may be apprised of such business and be prepared to decide thereon, without being taken by surprise," and their office is, "that any Member of Grand Lodge, intending to make a motion therein, or to submit any matter to its consideration, shall at such General Committee state in writing the nature of his intended motion or business,

that the same may be read." If we understand the meaning of words, this signifies that motions are to be read to the Board of Masters. There is no ambiguity of expression, no latent import here. Nothing can be more clear than that by the law no discretionary power is vested in this Board to accept or reject motions for the Grand Lodge. W. Bro. WYNDHAM PORTAL, at a very recent Meeting of the Board, gave a copy of an intended motion that there should be a competitive examination half-yearly in the Freemasons' Girls' School. The Grand Lodge was not competent to decide upon this subject, we fully admit. The motion, though of a most excellent character, did not lay within the sphere of their jurisdiction. The Board rejected it. Did they exceed their powers? The M.W.G.M., in answer to W. Bro. BEACH, declared "that the W.M. of that Board had exercised a wise discretion." But from whence derived he the power to do so? Not from law! In the M.W.G.M. alone is vested that power, and no other is competent to usurp his privilege. If laws are defective, change them; if they are faulty, abrogate them; but while you have them, observe them. It is a reflection upon wisdom to declare the expediency of a certain exercise of a right which does not exist. This may appear to some a small thing of little consequence; but it is not with respect to the present, but as to its bearing upon the future that we ought to regard this question. It is hard to cancel an injurious precedent if once established. *This*, surely, is fraught with danger. If this unlimited power is exercised in one instance, what can check it in another? Where will you draw the line? You alter the nature of the Board. You convert it into a deliberative body. Is this prudent? The power of a despot may be exercised for the good of his people, but it is hazardous to run the risk. Who may succeed him? After Augustus came Tiberius. So the discretion exercised by this Board may be very wise one day, but what is our guarantee that it will always be so? It is better to make for a safe haven, than anchor on a lee shore. The authority of the Star Chamber was but small at first, but as its methods of proceeding were arbitrary, and as it had no precise rule or limit, it grew till it became regardless of the provisions of the Great Charter, and it was abolished; though its coercive jurisdiction had great convenience in some cases. One lesson is to be learnt—resist the first encroachments of arbitrary power. Do not suffer the insidious assertion of a principle that is wrong. Twenty shillings would not have ruined the fortune of Mr. Hampden. No; but the payment of half twenty shillings, on the principle it was attempted to be levied, would have made him a slave. Take your stand upon your ancient constitutions, and do not permit them to be infringed. So you will cause your laws to be venerated. But if, on the contrary, you encourage their violation, whenever circumstances may seem to render such a course expedient, you weaken their effect—you make them powerless for good; for no one will obey laws, which seem framed but to be broken,—*Qui consulta patrum, qui leges juraque servat, vir bonus est quis?*

OUR representative system—the theory of its action, and its susceptibility of improvement—to these subjects, from every conceivable point of view, the eyes of the nation have of late been directed. Opinions, where so many are formed, cannot each and all be perfectly sound; but in each and all there may be some good thing. Here an impracticable suggestion, there a visionary theory, starts up to be grappled with. Heavily and remorselessly that lusty smith, called Opposition, deals his blows upon the shapeless substance of the argument, and the sparks fly on all sides from his anvil: that anvil is Discussion, and those sparks are Truth. Discussion temperately conducted can have no ill result; it must be productive of some benefit, it must elicit some truth; and we cannot think a few words on the subject of representative reform in Masonry out of place at the present time.

Is the Craft at large satisfied, not with the conduct, not with the constitution of, its Parliament, but with the machinery which circumscribes its free action? "Why!" dashes in some mercurial Brother who is at home in the Constitutions, "What more would you have? 'Every Brother regularly elected, etc.'"—(Ed. 1855, p. 18, s. 1.) V. D. B. Spare us further quotation! The theory is charming, but how does it come out in practice? Nothing could be devised more agreeable for you, Brothers BROWN and JONES! You have organized, perhaps, your private Lodge meetings under the same roof with G.L. You have been nestling for the last four hours under the very eaves of the Senate. We all know your comfortable faces as you come in and subside into your accustomed seats, where you commune with complacent memories, *veteris Bacchi pinguis que ferina*, and vote away, like good fellows as you are, hundreds of pounds in charity. But how about your old friend ROBINSON? Do you remember what interest he used to take in Masonic matters? Do you call to mind how highly, when you saw more of each other, you prized his opinion, you esteemed his sagacity and business-like mind? Do you not think his vote would be an honest and a right one, had he an opportunity of recording it on some of the important questions that form the subject of our debates? But, Brother ROBINSON (unluckily, as we think, for the Craft,) is separated from you by a dozen hours of railway travelling. He is filling the W.M.'s chair of his Lodge at Carlisle or Launceston, or some equally desirable but remote place of residence; and even if he could be spared from his professional duties, would hardly be justified (for like a true Briton his quiver is full) in spending £10 to come and make his speech, and perhaps be snubbed for his pains. Now can W. Bro. ROBINSON, and his Lodge of all the virtues, No. 9999, be said to be represented in G.L.? We hardly anticipate an affirmative answer. But, by the way, was that money we saw voted away for benevolent purposes contributed by Metropolitan Lodges only? Are the pockets of London Brethren alone touched up for playful little experiments in aërostatics and lighting? Or have our friends at Carlisle and Launceston also contributed their

little quota? If so, what becomes of the hackneyed apothegm about taxation without representation being tyranny?

In a word, are our Country Brethren content to be excluded from that share in the government which is acknowledged in idle words to be their due, but is practically placed as far beyond their reach as if they hailed from the Isthmus of Darien? We see that some able and zealous Brethren have spoken in the Provinces recently upon this subject. At Bath, on the 10th of February, W. Bro. Lord CARNARVON expatiated with great effect on the monstrous injustice of 500 Lodges being placed by geographical accident at the mercy of a small section. The Masons of Southampton have, from W. Bro. BIGGS, heard similar sentiments; and we trust, for the increased prosperity of the community, that the discussion of this topic will be encouraged at Provincial meetings. Not that we would stir the sediments of party into agitation, which is dangerous to harmony, or fan the flame of faction which is so difficult to subdue. *Non tali auxilio*, not by such means is a great principle best asserted, for day by day the enjoyers of privileges are awaking to the fact that their fruition is not necessarily marred by participation, nor the security of those privileges endangered by extending the interest in their perpetuance.

On the occasion of a procession or a show, when, by dint of subtle diplomacy or physical exertion, we have attained to some coign of vantage or position of temporary superiority over our struggling fellows, are we not conscious of a feeling of petty triumph? And when another man in time succeeds to an equality with us (we blush to ask it), is there not a dash of grudge or envy in the milk of our human kindness towards him? A moment's thought, and we require no deep analysis to prove such sentiments mean and unworthy. Up goes a rocket, or the band begins to play: there is something worth seeing, and a little disappointed urchin is tottering on tiptoe and dislocating his neck to see that something, but in vain. Why, we can't bear to be selfish in our enjoyment. A grasp, a lift, and we have raised the struggler to an equality of privilege with ourselves, and almost put it down on the credit side of our conscience as a good action. Brothers BROWN and JONES, there is room for another on your platform, and ROBINSON is *au désespoir* in the street. By your decision the agenda are now circulated among Provincial brethren, and have stirred, as they ought to do, an ambition in their minds to take part from their far Lodges in the government of the Craft. Do but agree with us that we should all start level! Grant us the fairness of the proposition that our Country Lodges should have an opportunity of recording their votes on such questions as are decided by vote in G.L., and we will then have an amicable discussion on the details of the reform. We shall probably be agreed that the principle of proxy would not suit us. It savours too much of party to be desirable. But no such objection would, we apprehend, be incident to Lord CARNARVON'S suggestion, which was so warmly received at Bath, that country votes should be deemed

legally tendered when sent on a sheet of paper by post to Grand Lodge. Some such mode of proceeding would be clear, as it appears to us, from all imputation of jobbery, and its adoption by our authorities a bold, judicious, and popular step in Masonic Reform.

WE were always aware that Scotch Masonry, like Scotch marriages, was rather a loose affair, but we confess we were unprepared for the astounding and discreditable revelations that have lately been made relative to Scotch MARK Masonry, and the way in which the authorities of that degree carry on their affairs.

It appears, from a statement lately made in the GRAND MARK LODGE in London, and since corroborated by indisputable evidence, that the GRAND CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND is in the habit of granting certificates declaring that the persons named in them have taken the R.A. degree at a specified time and place, and are therefore MARK Masters, which is in Scotland a necessary step to the R.A., when the whole statement, as to individual, time, and place, is a simple untruth from beginning to end. A Member of the MARK G.L. announced that he "held in his hand a document purporting to be a Scottish G.C. certificate of Exaltation. It stated that a certain Brother had been exalted in the Esk Dalkeith Chapter, No. 42, on the 18th of November, 1857; and recorded in the Register of the GRAND CHAPTER on the 19th of November. It stated in French, that the Brother had previously entered into the usual obligation. It purported to bear the seal of the Esk Dalkeith Chapter, No. 42, and of the GRAND CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND. It purported to be signed by the Officers of the Chapter, including Brother WILLIAM GAYLOR, who also signed the GRAND CHAPTER Record of the 19th November, as G.S.E. Pro. Grand Recorder. He desired it to be understood that the Brother to whom this certificate is said to have been issued assured him, he was never in a Scotch Chapter in his life—had never elsewhere, either on the 18th of November, or at any other time, been exalted or obligated as certified. And that he had been led into accepting the document by a Scotch gentleman he had met in London, in order that the possession of the certificate might imply to the world (though not stated) that he was a regular Scotch Master (MARK Master), and in a position to apply to the G.C. of Scotland for a warrant to work the degree in England."

This notable fraud—we wish we could add that it were forgery—attempted to be passed upon English MARK Masters by the GRAND CHAPTER Authorities in SCOTLAND, will, now that it has been discovered, go far, we trust, to prevent English Masons from accepting warrants to work the MARK degree from SCOTLAND, as it will doubtless prevent English MARK Lodges from attaching any higher value to Scotch certificates than might be supposed to belong to the Railway Scrip issued by REDPATH and Co.

As to the supposed antiquity of Scotch MARK Masonry, we suggest the following considerations to those who still believe in it.

The GRAND CHAPTER of Scotland, from whom the authority to hold MARK Lodges emanates, is exactly forty years old, and no older.

It was only on the 23rd of September, 1842, that the GRAND CHAPTER first resolved to issue MARK warrants. Which, then, is the oldest authority, to say nothing of the most respectable, the Scotch GRAND CHAPTER, or the time-immemorial Lodges which are to be found in England, and which have joined in the formation of a GRAND LODGE of MARK MASTERS under the Mastership of the R.W. Lord LEIGH?

GRAND LODGE.

[Published by the permission of the M.W. the G.M., upon the Publisher's responsibility for the accuracy of the report.]

The Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge was held on Wednesday, the 3rd inst., in the Hall, the M.W. G.M. on the Throne, supported by the D.G.M.; the R.W. Bro. Dundas, M.P., as S.G.W.; R.W. Bro. Fenwick, P.G.W.; V.W. Bro. Moore, G.C.; the G.R.W. Bros. Roxburgh and Wilson, G. Deacons, &c.

Grand Lodge having been opened, and the regulations for its government read, as required by the Book of Constitutions,

PRIVILEGE.

On the motion being put that the minutes of the last G.L. be confirmed,

W. Bro. BINCKES moved for the production of the paper containing the authorized report of W. Bro. Havers' motion relative to the non-reception of the report of the Colonial Board, and stated that he had found, on reference to the official documents, that his version of that motion was the correct one.

The M.W. the G.M. said, he should be happy to hear Bro. Binckes when the motion before the chair was disposed of. The minutes were then confirmed.

THE POWER OF THE BOARD OF MASTERS.

W. Bro. BEACH, M.P., wished to direct the attention of G.L. to a subject well worthy their consideration, and his doing so would perhaps be the means of settling the law in reference to the matter. He wished to know the extent of the power vested in the Board of Masters. He knew that it was constituted to receive notices of motion to be brought forward in G.L., and then to submit them to the G.M., for him to allow them to be put to the Brethren in that room. If however they were allowed to express their own opinions upon the matters before them, that power would completely alter their character, and make them a deliberative body; besides being a usurpation of the rights of G.L. He wished to know the extent of the power delegated to them, and to have read from the Book of Constitutions the detail of their duties.

The M.W. the G.M. said, that he believed that the question of Bro. Beach arose out of the fact that the chairman of the Board of Masters had refused to receive a notice of motion referring to two of the Masonic charities. In his opinion the chairman of the board was perfectly right in taking that course. It was a motion, as he had already stated, having reference to two of the Masonic charities with which G.L. had nothing more to do than as subscribers. If a notice proposing to interfere with the British Orphan Asylum, at Clapham, had been put before the Board of Masters, there could be no doubt that they would be justified in refusing to receive it. G.L. had little more to do with the Masonic charities than with the British Orphan Asylum. That was to say that it had nothing more to do with them than had any individual subscriber. If the Board of Masters was to send up to G.L. everything which might be put before them, whether it referred to the Craft or not, it would not answer the purpose for which it had been formed. It was his, the G.M.'s opinion, that the Chairman had, in this instance, exercised a wise discretion; still, that was but his individual opinion, and if Bro. Beach wished it he could take the decision of G.L. upon the subject.

The matter then dropped.

The M.W. the G.M. then called upon Bro. Binckes for his motion.

Bro. BINCKES said, that on the last occasion of the meeting of G.L. he had moved the non-confirmation of so much of the minutes of the preceding meeting of G.L. as related to the report of the Colonial Board. He considered that the report of the Colonial Board had been disrespectfully treated; part of it only having been adopted, and the

rest rejected. He had been however overruled by his lordship, and he had been told that no part of the report had been rejected. Upon that, he, Bro. Binckes, asked the G.M. to appeal to the minutes, and they, he was bound to say, seemed to tell against him. Subsequently, however, he had had an opportunity of inspecting the authorized report of the proceedings of G.L., as sanctioned by the G.M. himself, and he there found, in print, that which bore out, to the letter, what he, relying upon the authority of the *Freemason's Magazine*, had stated to be the case. He much regretted the invidious position in which he had been placed at the last meeting of G.L., and he now wished to know, from the G.M., if he, Bro. Binckes, was in a position to move that the authorized report be read, that he might prove to the Brethren that what he had stated to them in December last was perfectly correct.

W. Bro. HAVERS said, he was extremely sorry that Bro. Binckes should have thought it necessary to refer again to this matter. The question could not by any manner of means be made one of privilege; indeed it was altogether irrelevant and improper. He would not, however, base his answer on that objection, but would venture to reply to the whole statement.

W. Bro. SINGER rose to order, and requested the G.M. to suppress the discussion, as there was no notice of it on the business paper.

The M.W. the G.M. had no objection to give any Brother the opportunity of a personal explanation, but if a matter of this kind was to be reopened it could only be done by regular notice of motion.

The subject then dropped.

ELECTION OF M.W.G.M.

W. Bro. F. SLIGHT rose and said, that he had great pleasure in proposing the re-election of the M.W. the G.M., the Earl of Zetland, as G.M. for the ensuing year. He should not, in making that motion, detain them farther than by saying that every member of the Craft who had the privilege of attending G.L., must have had ample opportunity of observing the ability, courtesy, and dignity, with which his lordship presided over them; and those Brethren who were admitted more intimately to his counsels, bore testimony to the care and the attention which his lordship bestowed upon everything concerning the welfare of the Craft. He should say no more than now propose that the Right Honourable Thomas Dundas, Earl of Zetland, be, for the fourteenth time, re-elected G.M. of the united G.L. of England. (Cheers.)

W. Bro. HAIGH seconded the motion.

The R.W. Bro. Lord PANMURE, as D.G.M., then put the motion to the Lodge, and it was unanimously agreed to.

W. Bro. CHAPMAN, as S.G. Dic. of Cer., then proclaimed the re-election of his lordship in the usual form, and called upon the Brethren to pay him the customary salutation.

The M.W. the G.M. returned thanks to the Lodge for having again unanimously re-elected him to fill the throne. He would repeat, he said, what he had stated on former occasions, that so long as he thought he possessed the confidence of the Craft, he would devote all his endeavours to promote its interests. Never on any former occasion had he experienced a more gratifying exhibition of that confidence than he had on that evening, and in return for it he could only say that his utmost exertions were at the service of the Brethren.

On the motion of W. Bro. BARRETT, W. Bro. Tomkins was re-elected Grand Treasurer, and his re-election was proclaimed from the Dais in the usual manner.

GRAND LODGE OF HANOVER.

The M.W. the G.M. then announced that the King of Hanover had nominated H.R.H. the Prince of Jolmes Brauenfelds, representative from the G.L. of Hanover, at the united G.L. of England; and that he, the M.W.G.M., had appointed Bro. the Earl of Durham representative of the G.L. of England at the G.L. of Hanover.

The M.W. the G.M. then laid before G.L. the correspondence with respect to the resignation of the office of P.G.M. for Quebec, by Bro. T. D. Harrington [for which see our Colonial Intelligence].

RECEPTION OF PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM.

The M.W. the G.M. then said he would now propose according to notice a resolution expressive of his own satisfaction and the satisfaction of G.L., for the able and efficient manner in which the W. Bro. Richard W. Jennings, Grand Director of Ceremonies, made all the arrangements for the reception of His Royal Highness Prince Frederick William of Prussia, on the occasion of His Royal Highness's visit to Grand Lodge in December last. He had no doubt most of the Brethren present had been witnesses of the manner in which Bro. Jennings had made the preparation for the reception of H.R.H. Nothing could be more satisfactory or better conducted, and he therefore hoped that G.L. would record its approval of them on the minutes of G.L.

R.W. Lord PARNURE seconded the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to.

W. Bro. JENNINGS said he was quite sure the Brethren would sympathise with him in his feelings on the present occasion. It was now many years since the illustrious Prince, the predecessor of the M.W. the G.M. did him the honour to appoint him to the office which he at present held at G.L., and he (Bro. Jennings) had since made it a matter of duty to perform those tasks which his duty imposed upon him without reference to individuals. Though his name appeared low down on the list of G. Officers, yet their approval of his conduct showed that if a Mason did his duty he was sure of the confidence of his Brethren.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The report of the Board of Benevolence stated that in December they had relieved fifteen cases to the extent of £180 10s; in January, five cases, to the extent of £60; and in February, eleven cases, to the extent of £105. They made the following recommendations to G.L.—Bro. William Osborne Leigh, of No. 164, Greenwich, £100; Bro. John Greenwood, of No. 365, Huddersfield, £30; the widow of George Reynolds, of No. 147, Hythe, £50; Bro. John Daley, of No. 752, London, £50. These recommendations were severally agreed to. It appeared from the annual audit that the balance to the credit of the Board of Benevolence was £450 17s. 9d.; and that to the credit of the Board of General Purposes £659 13s. 9d.

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

On the motion of W. Bro. ROXBURGH, the Report of the Board of General Purposes was received and ordered to be entered on the minutes. It was as follows:—

"The Board of General Purposes beg to report that they have received a Memorial from Bro. Percy Moss, one of the clerks in the Grand Secretary's office, praying for an increase of salary, and that, having duly considered such Memorial and the duties performed by Bro. Moss, they recommended that his salary be increased to the sum of two guineas per week, such increase to commence from the 1st of January last.

"The Board having received a Report from the Estates' Committee, that the addition of two rooms to the present tavern accommodation would conduce much to the convenience of the Craft and the Lodges meeting in the house; and it having been reported by the Grand Superintendent of Works that such additional accommodation could be provided in the next house, already in the possession of the Society, at a cost of £200; and that the present tenants are willing to pay the sum of £30 per annum as rent for such rooms, together with all additional rates and taxes thereon, the Board have authorised the providing such accommodation, and they submit the same for the sanction of Grand Lodge.

"The Board further report, that, in compliance with the direction of Grand Lodge in June last, they have decided upon the form of clasp to be worn on the ribbon of the charity jewel, and that the pattern of such clasp is deposited in the office of the Grand Secretary.

"The Board, believing that it will tend to the advantage of the charities, recommend that an additional clasp on the ribbon be permitted to be worn by every Brother who may have served a fourth or any subsequent stewardship to either of the charities, such clasps to bear the name of the charity, and the date or year of the stewardship.

"The Board submit to the opinion of Grand Lodge the experimental lighting of the Hall with sun-burners, and will be glad to receive any communication from the members of Grand Lodge who may have paid attention to the subject, which may assist them on determining upon the best mode of lighting and ventilation to be recommended for adoption.

"Then follows the Cash Account.

(Signed) "FRANCIS ROXBURGH,
"Freemasons' Hall, 17th Feb., 1858. "President."

Distinct resolutions were then agreed to, sanctioning the increase of Bro. Moss's salary, and the expenditure of £200 in the manner recommended in the report.

COLONIAL BOARD.

The following report of the Colonial Board was then received and entered on the minutes:—

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

"The Colonial Board beg to report that they have received a Protest from Bro. W. P. Wilson, of the Meridian Lodge, No. 1031, Melbourne, against that Lodge proceeding to ballot for the election of four joining Brethren, their Grand Lodge certificates not being produced as required by the law. It was argued in reply, that the

distance of the colony from England caused delay in obtaining the certificates, and that as the candidates were all well known, the production of their certificates was not imperative. To which the following reply was directed to be sent:—

"Freemasons' Hall, London, 11th Jan., 1858.

"Sir and Brother,—I beg to inform you that your letter of the 15th September, 1857, and the Protest of Bro. W. P. Wilson, of the Lodge No. 1031, were laid before the Colonial Board at their meeting on the 5th inst.

"I am directed by the Board to state, that it is certainly contrary to the law, as it at present stands, to admit a Brother as a joining member of a Lodge without the production of his Grand Lodge certificate, and also the certificate of his former Lodge. The Colonial Board have no power to alter or relax the law: but I am desired to say, the subject will be brought before the Grand Lodge in the next report the Board makes.

"Meanwhile a remedy will be partially afforded by the issue of blank certificates for the accommodation of Lodges in the colonies and foreign parts. By this the delay that has hitherto necessarily taken place in having to apply to England will be obviated. These certificates will very shortly be ready, and can be supplied to Provincial Grand Masters abroad by application to me.

"I remain, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

"WM. GRAY CLARKE, G.S.

"To James MacDermott, Esq.,

"Provincial Grand Secretary,

"Public Lands' Office, Melbourne."

"The Board begs to call the attention of Grand Lodge to the paragraph, pages 77 and 78, of the Book of Constitutions, to which, when the Laws are next revised, some modification might be introduced with advantage.

"The following communication from Brother James Gallon, Secretary to the Corinthian Lodge, No. 834, Peterborough, Canada West, was received on the 7th December, 1857:—

"Corinthian Lodge, Peterboro', Canada West,
"November 20th, 1857.

"Sir and Brother,—A pamphlet has been recently published in Toronto, Canada West, entitled, 'Proceedings of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, and of the Ancient Grand Lodge of Canada, September, 1857,' containing two errors respecting our Lodge, to which the Master and Wardens are anxious to draw your attention to prevent their consistency being compromised at the present unfortunate disruption in Canada, in the event of the report reaching your hands.

"At page 12 of that publication, it is stated that the Corinthian Lodge of Peterboro' did, among others, give its 'entire and cordial approval of the Memorial' of the late Prov. Grand Lodge of Canada West. The enclosed Copy of a Resolution, unanimously adopted by our Lodge, copies of which were at the time forwarded to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England, and the Grand Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West will, we trust, be a sufficient refutation of that assertion.

"Again, at page 61, the Corinthian Lodge is placed in the list of Lodges now under the jurisdiction of the so-called Ancient Grand Lodge of Canada; the fact of our still holding our English Warrant affords a proof that it is placed there incorrectly."

"Copy.

"Resolution passed at a Meeting of the Corinthian Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, holden at Peterboro', on Tuesday, the 15th day of December, 1856:

"Moved by Brother Rev. V. Clementi, seconded by Brother Holywell, and resolved—

"That the M.W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England having, at a Quarterly Communication on the 4th of June last, stated, that 'he wished to do every justice to Canadian Lodges,' and declared 'that their claims should be fairly and fully considered; that he was fully determined to take their grievances into consideration,' and that 'he trusted to be able, before a very long period, to lay before the Grand Lodge a plan which he hoped would be satisfactory to all Provincial Grand Lodges, and which would get rid of complaints:—it is deemed by this Lodge premature and inexpedient to take any action with reference to the complaints made, not without reason, by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West; and it is considered more in accordance with the feelings and principles which should, under all circumstances, actuate the minds of Masons to await the result of the deliberations of the M.W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, aided, as those deliberations will professedly be, by the advice of his Brethren.'

"The receipt of the above was duly acknowledged on the 16th of December, with an intimation that the errors pointed out in the pamphlet referred to would be brought before the proper authorities.

"A communication was received from the Atlantic Phoenix Lodge, No. 271, Bermuda, complaining that a packet of Grand Lodge and Royal Arch Certificates had not been received, either by the mail advising their having been forwarded, or the two following ones. On reference, it was found that the Certificates had been duly dispatched on the 5th November, 1857. The Grand Secretary was instructed to address the Postmaster General on the subject, who promises inquiry.

"(Signed)

"JOHN HERVEY, V. P.

"Freemasons' Hall, London, 4th February, 1858."

TASMANIA.

The Memorial from the Brethren of No. 781, at Hobart Town, was then read (for which see our *Colonial Intelligence*).

R.W. Bro. Lord PANNURE then said: We have just heard read at length the memorial of Bro. Toby and of several of the Brethren resident in Hobart Town, many of whom I understand belong to Lodge No. 781, but a great part of whom are not, as I am told, members of that Lodge but belong to other bodies of Masons in that town. It appears to me, Brethren, that an appeal of this kind, involving, as it does, very serious points of difference between those who have signed the memorial and the Provincial Grand Master, should be disposed of at once. You, my lord, have referred this memorial and the voluminous documents which have been received from the P.G.M. and Bro. Toby to myself, as your Deputy Grand Master, to the Grand Registrar, and to the Grand Secretary; and I have now to state, that we have gone fully through the whole matter, and read all the correspondence connected with it; and with the permission of G.L., if you will kindly bear with me for some time, I shall endeavor to make clear all the circumstances of the case. Before doing so, however, it will be necessary that the attention of the Brethren should be drawn to the present position of the Craft in Tasmania. It consists of four Lodges; three of these are held at Launceston, and one at Hobart Town. The three held at Launceston (I do not recollect their number) are severally the Lodges of Faith, of Hope, and of Charity; and the Lodge held at Hobart Town is No. 781. In 1856, as the memorial states, Bro. Ewing was, by the prerogative of the G.M. and on the recommendation of three out of the four Lodges in the Province, named P.G.M. His character stands, as it ought to do, most high in that part of her majesty's dominions. He is a clergyman; and as such, he has the care of a vast number of souls. He is highly respected as a man, we could expect nothing less from his profession; and for five consecutive years, he has been at the head of his own Lodge; and I would especially wish you to recollect, that he has not in any manner shown himself zealous of attaining the honor of being P.G.M. Indeed, he recommended another for that office. In that however he was overruled; and was himself recommended for the appointment. From that appointment, the whole of this affair starts. It appears from the correspondence, that this appointment of Bro. Ewing to be P.G.M. was extremely distasteful to Bro. Toby. In fact, from the papers placed before us, it appears that he had himself deserved to fill that high station. Be that as it may, he and those who have acted with him have thought proper to address to G.L. the memorial which we have heard read. First of all they state, that whereas they consider that the M.W. the G.M. has the authority to name whomever he may please as P.G.M., they yet complain that in this case that authority has not been properly exercised. Now I humbly conceive, that it is not the province of Bro. Toby to question the prerogative of the G.M. At all events, if a Brother presumes to question the G.M.'s authority, it should be done directly and distinctly to the G.M. himself, and to no other body. In the next place, how, I ask, could Bro. Toby know that the G.M. had not, before making the appointment, ascertained the fitness of Bro. Ewing for the appointment. (Hear, hear.) I simply ask, what better test could the G.M. have of the fitness of a Mason for dignity in the Craft, than the testimony of three out of four of the Lodges in the province; and the fact that for five years he held the chair in his own Lodge, with credit to himself and with advantage to the Brethren? (Hear, hear.) That, I think, disposes of the first point. We come now to the next and simple point of the memorial. Bro. Toby asserts, that after Bro. Ewing had been named P.G.M., and prior to his being installed, he exercised the powers of his office before being authorised to do so. What was the exercise of this power which has been complained of? Bro. Ewing, on obtaining the patent of his office, called for certain returns from No. 781; but which returns Bro. Toby refused to furnish him with, and on this ground, he said—you are not yet installed as P.G.M., and therefore you have no right to call for these returns. In taking this line of argument, I conceive Bro. Toby made a grave mistake. If the Brethren will refer to the

Book of Constitutions, they will find at page 44 the following, with respect to the appointment of P.G.M.: "The appointment of this officer is a prerogative of the G.M., by whom a patent may be granted during pleasure to any Brother of eminence and ability in the Craft, who may be thought worthy of the appointment. By this patent, the Brother is invested with a rank and power in his particular district similar to those possessed by the G.M. He shall be installed at the first P.G.L. he may hold after his appointment." From this it is perfectly clear, that the P.G.M. is entitled by his patent to discharge all the duties of his office before he is installed. The Book of Constitutions goes on to say: "He shall hear and determine all subjects of Masonic complaint or irregularity respecting Lodges or individual Masons within his district; and may proceed to admonition, fine, or suspension, until the next meeting of the Grand Lodge, according to the general laws of the Craft." It thus appears, that a Brother is, in the first instance, appointed to the office of P.G.M. by patent; and it is quite evident that it is the patent which creates the power; for if it did not, it would be in the power of any Brother to make null and void the appointments made by the G.M. What does Bro. Ewing do? To constitute his G.L., he must know who are the members of the Lodges in his Province; and he cannot know that, unless he asks for returns from the several Lodges; and if they refuse to furnish them when he calls for them, for the mere purpose of doing his best in the election of G. Officers, what is he to do? If he has not these returns, how is he to constitute his Lodge? Common sense will point out that his patent gives him that power. That was all Bro. Ewing did. He called on No. 781 to make certain returns, and that Lodge refused to do so. It is said that the P.G.M. did not give the Brethren of No. 781 sufficient notice of his intention to hold the Grand Lodge of his Province. He gave notice, as this correspondence shows, of his being appointed P.G.M., and that he had received the patent of his appointment. He next called on them himself; and then, failing to obtain from them the returns which he required, he thirdly issued to them his peremptory summons (I do not say that it was one in what we call peremptory terms). Even after that summons, the Brethren of No. 781 persevered in their refusal. It will appear to G.L., that the Brethren of No. 781 exhibited contumacy in that refusal. Under these circumstances, Bro. Ewing proceeded to his installation. By the refusal of Bro. Toby and the other officers of No. 781 to make the required returns, great injustice was, I think, done to the other members of that Lodge, because, for want of those returns, they were excluded from Grand office. As I before observed, Bro. Ewing proceeded to his instalment; and it is now urged by Bro. Toby and the other Brethren who signed the memorial, that because the P.G.M. sent them an invitation to attend that ceremony, he condoned their offence and admitted that there was no contumacy in the resistance offered to his authority prior to his being installed. That was not so. All the P.G.M. did was this: wishing to preserve peace and good feeling between the Brethren, as was his duty both as a clergyman and as a Mason, he held out to them the right hand of fellowship, thereby giving them a *locus penitentie*, which *locus penitentie* they declined to avail themselves of. Under these circumstances, Bro. Ewing, by the advice of the P.G.L. under whose advice he had all along acted, proceeded—not hastily but deliberately, for these misunderstandings had continued from March to May—to suspend Lodge 781 from its Masonic functions. But even after that, Bro. Ewing did not stand upon the dignity of his office, but went himself down to Hobart Town, and invited the contumacious Brethren to meet him, not as their G.M. but privately, and so try to arrange the points at issue between them. In consequence of his paying them that visit, Bro. Toby and the other members of No. 781 met him, and for some time, as it appears from the correspondence, very high, very improper, and very unmasonic altercations took place between them. Afterwards, however, they came to see matters in a better light. Harmony came over them; and they agreed that some arrangements should be made, whereby the suspension should be taken off No. 781, and the members of it restored to their Masonic functions. They asked Bro. Ewing to suggest some means by which that might be done. He then said, he would draw out the form of a petition for them to sign, with the slightest possible recognition of his authority, so as not to hurt their dignity. If they would sign that petition, he would, he said, make a representation of the matter to G.L., and set things all right. He drew up that petition for them, but after he left Hobart Town, a new spirit seems to have come over them, for out of all the members of the Lodge, only four individuals were found to sign it. Those Brethren who so signed the petition, were restored to their Masonic functions; and it shall be my duty to propose to you a motion to confirm that restoration. We gather from all this, that there is a bad spirit and a spirit of jealousy between the two principal towns in Tasmania, Hobart Town and Launceston; and I am sorry to say that that bad spirit has extended itself from the towns to their Masonic Lodges. But that, you will agree with me, is no reason why we

should not all do our best: first of all, to maintain the authority of the Grand Officers, or rather the Officer appointed by the G.M.; and secondly, to bring the contumacious to a sense of what they have offended in. The prayer of Bro. Toby is this. He and those who have signed the memorial ask, that the province of Tasmania should be divided into two separate provinces, and that Hobart Town should be one of those provinces: and to effect that, they petition for two new warrants for Lodges, to be severally called the Derwent and the Pacific. This application of theirs is curiously signed; it is not signed by Brethren willing to constitute a new Lodge, but only by the Brethren of No. 781, plainly showing the intention to split up the one Lodge into three to make a province. We do not wish to interfere with the prerogative of the G.M., but we may say that it would not be a right thing to divide a single province into two under such circumstances, and that too while the Lodge which asks to have the province broken up is contumacious. It would not do to listen to any application for the erection of a province at Hobart Town. But it has been stated, that it is impossible for the Grand Master to confer on Hobart Town proper Masonic privileges. That is not so; because Bro. Toby himself acknowledges, that Bro. Ewing intimated his willingness to take his D.G.M. from No. 781, and every year to hold a Grand Lodge at Hobart Town, thus showing every disposition to extend harmony throughout the province and to govern it in all true Masonic spirit. As to the present Masonic arrangements in Tasmania, the M.W. the Grand Master has stated to me that as in the course of time the population there may extend itself into other cities, and Masonry, as it is hoped it will, increase with the population, he will not be indisposed to create new provinces there, but he must in every instance be satisfied that there are enough of Lodges in the district to entitle it to be made a province of, and Masons connected with them deserving of the rank of Grand Officers. I have thus stated to you the gist of this matter, and I shall conclude by proposing that we assert the authority of the P.G.M. in Tasmania, because I do think that if we do not assert the authority of the officers of the M.W.G.M. abroad, we are likely to throw Masonry into confusion; for whatever may become of dynasties and states, Masonry must remain the same now and for ever, for it contains within itself the principles of union, harmony, and Christian fellowship; and if we do not exert ourselves to maintain the authority of those whom we appoint to preside over us, we shall not do that justice to the Craft which in our hearts we are anxious to do. The noble lord concluded his speech by moving a resolution to the effect that the appeal of the Brethren of 781 should be dismissed—that the suspension of that Lodge by the P.G.M. should be confirmed—and that the five Brethren who had made submission to his authority should be restored to their Masonic functions.

W. Bro. ROXBURGH seconded the motion.

W. Bro. WARREN moved, as an amendment, that the consideration of the question should be postponed for three months, to give the Brethren time to investigate all the particulars. He thought it was clear that no sufficient notice had been given to the Brethren of No. 781, of the intention to hold a P.G.L.

The Rev. Bro. PORTAL said, that one of the disadvantages necessarily attending the government of lodges in the Colonies, by a G.L. sitting in London, was the length of time that must elapse between the transmission of a complaint and the decision of G.L. upon it. He therefore thought that it was of the greatest importance that the memorial they had just heard should be dealt with at once, and not be postponed for three months longer. As to the point urged by Bro. Warren that the Brethren of 781 had got a very short notice of the meeting of the P.G.L., he (Bro. Portal) did not think it had anything to do with the question, as the Lodge had not been suspended for neglecting to attend the P.G.L., but because they had deliberately refused to send certain returns to the P.G.M., after having been duly summoned to do so. There was one point on which he should be glad to be allowed to make a suggestion to the G.M., and that was, that considering the irritation that evidently existed on the part of the Brethren, at Hobart Town, against the P.G.M., it might be worth while to consider the propriety of excluding that district from his jurisdiction, and placing it under the immediate authority of the M.W.G.M. himself.

W. Bro. ARIA said, that he was convinced that even an adverse decision would be more agreeable to the memorialists than delay.

The M.W. the G.M. said, that he had a few observations to address to G.L. upon the matter before them; he had expressed to G.L., and to the provinces generally, that when it could be shown to him that to divide a province would be for the benefit of the Craft, he should be willing to do so; but to do so in the present instance was altogether out of the question, in as much as there was only one Lodge in the district which they wished to have erected into a province, and that Lodge contumacious and continuing in its contumacy. What might be done at a future time he was not prepared to say, but first they

should vindicate the law, assert the authority of the G.M., and bring the lodge into submission. He could not agree with Bro. Portal with respect to his taking the province under his own control, for that would be only making matters worse; for if it were inconvenient to have the Grand Lodge at a distance of 150 miles, how much more so would it be to have it at the distance of 16,000 miles. At all events it was necessary to postpone any step until the contumacious lodge made submission.

The motion was then agreed to.

W. Bro. HAYERS then proposed the resolution of which he had given notice, preventing any member of G.L. from bringing forward, without regular notice, any motion to alter the recommendations of relief made by the Lodge of Benevolence, as it was not proper that G.L. should be taken by surprise.

W. Bro. J. SMITH seconded the motion.

W. Bro. ARIA opposed it, as it proposed to deprive G.L. of its privileges.

W. Bro. SAVAGE took the same view of it, and said it would completely tie their hands in regard to charity.

W. Bro. SYMONDS supported the motion, which was opposed by Bro. Singer.

R.W. Bro. Lord PANMURE was, he said, swayed by the objections urged by Bro. Savage, and requested Bro. Havers to withdraw his motion.

W. Bro. HAYERS could not resist a request so urged, and withdrew his motion.

It being now past eleven o'clock, G.L. was closed in ample form, and with solemn prayer.

Mark Masonry.

THE BON-ACCORD LODGE OF MARK MASTERS.

We notice that this is the second year of office of Bro. Cole, and as this prosperous Lodge has no lack of aspirants, such a mark of honor must be duly valued. On 10th of February the Lodge met at Freemasons' Tavern, and Brethren from all quarters of the globe were advanced, among whom we may name, Bro. Geo. A. F. Norris, from Hong Kong; Bro. Frank Haes, from New South Wales; and Bro. Norris, from Macao. Bro. Read, of Singapore, was a candidate, but did not attend. The sister isle was ably represented by an excellent Brother, whom some day we trust to see upon the woosack, namely, Bro. Wm. John O'Donovan, of the Temple. Bro. Keddeil, W.M., of the Adam's Lodge, Sheerness, worked the degree most admirably, in the absence of Bro. Cole; and no less efficiently presided at the banquet, where his jovial wit and good fellowship were most apparent. Among the Brethren present was Bro. Purton Cooper, the P.G.M. of the Mark for Kent; Bro. Ridgway, G. Reg., and many others, well known and esteemed.

THE PHENIX LODGE OF MARK MASTERS. No. 2, PORTSMOUTH.

On the 15th of February this Lodge held a meeting, Bro. Woolley, G. Chaplain, the W.M. installed his successor in the chair. Two Brethren were advanced, namely, Bro. Wm. White, and Bro. Wm. Woodward. Very great satisfaction was expressed at the announcement made with regard to the Albany and Munda Lodge of Mark Masters, held at Newport, Isle of Wight, having joined the Brotherhood of the Mark, under the Grand Lodge: this union so gratifying to the Craft in general cannot fail to be especially pleasing to the Portsmouth Mark Masters, who have long felt the bar placed betwixt themselves and their neighbours on the island.

THE MALLET AND CHISEL LODGE. No. 5.

Under the able mastership of Bro. Burnes, this Lodge met at the "Three Tons," in this Borough, on the 10th of Feb., when several distinguished members of the Grand Lodge took part in the proceedings; amongst others, Bro. Bremridge, to whose efforts in the province of Devon the progress of the degree in the west is mainly due. The W.M. with the eye of a good general, singled out a worthy Bro. Jessie Turner, although only advanced on this occasion, for the post of Secretary, and in his appointment of the other officers was equally successful in securing able coadjutors. Bro. Harris is S.W., and Bro. Trebeck, J.W.

THE KEYSTONE LODGE OF MARK MASTERS. No. 3.

A meeting of this Lodge took place at the "Ship and Turtle," Leadenhall Street, on the 1st of March, when Bro. Painter, the host, and several others, were advanced to the degree, by Bro. T. S. Barringer, J.G.W. the W.M. Everything in this excellent Lodge seems in harmony from the chants to the ingredients of the Turtle soup.

THE CARMARVON LODGE OF MARK MASTERS. No. 7.

The Carmarvon Lodge met at the "Freemasons' Tavern," on the 2nd of March, when the degree was admirably worked by Bro. W. W. Beach, M.P. for Hants, ably assisted by Bro. Portal, S.W., and Bro. Hammerton, J.W. Twenty-three Brethren were advanced to the degree on this occasion, the majority of whom came purposely from Oxford to be received into this excellent Lodge. The following were amongst the number:—Bros W. H. Lyall, J. T. Dillwyn Llewelyn, T. M. Talbot, John E. D. Shafto, Lord Hamilton, W. Morshead, J. E. Codrington, T. Norman, J. B. Strother, H. H. Richardson, Douglas Henty, J. Pratt, A. Champion Wilyams, H. E. Astley, Broome Pinniger, O. F. D. Wakeman, E. Kennard, A. T. Blakston, A. A. Reilly, J. W. Hozier, W. Thompson, Robert L. Watson, and E. S. Cossens. After labour, the Brethren sat down to an excellent dinner, such as "The Tavern" can supply on choice occasions. It was highly gratifying to find the Mark degree, this evening, the means of bringing together, what may be called, the present and past generation of Oxford Masons; and hearty were the greetings of the newly advanced to the old "Apollos," excellently represented by Bros. Portal and Beach, two P.M's. of the Apollo Lodge. The proceedings were varied by some excellent songs. Bro. Ridgway, totally oblivious for the moment of his exalted dignity as Grand Registrar, transformed himself into a militiaman, and sung, in the Devonshire dialect, a song, written by himself. This loyal effusion, called "The Militia Volunteer," the Brother gave with a chorus of drums, striking if not melodious. Earl Carnarvon, the W.W., was, much to his regret, prevented attending the Lodge, having accepted office in the new ministry, and being, under the anxious circumstances, necessarily detained in Downing Street. May he be found as zealous and useful in the Craft of Politics as he has already proved to be in the Craft of Masonry.

THE MARK LODGE. No. 4.

This excellent Lodge met at the "Freemasons' Tavern," on Thursday, the 21st of Jan., 1858. This was the day of installation, Bro. Ridgway terminating his year of Office as W.M., and being succeeded in the chair of the Lodge by Bro. Lord Leigh, the R.W. Grand Master W.M. elect. His Lordship had been unavoidably obliged to leave town that morning, but had expressly commissioned Bro. Ridgway to place in the hands of Bro. Barnard, the Deputy-Master, the privilege of appointing the several officers. This he exercised as follows:—Bro. Chilton, S.W.; Bro. Mark Tompkins, J.W.; Bro. the Rev. Dr. Woolley, Chaplain; Bro. Leeks, Secretary; Bro. Clarke, Registrar of Marks; Bro. Empson, S.D.; Bro. Young, J.D.; and Bro. Doyle, S.G. A very handsome gift was presented to the Lodge in the name of his Lordship the W.M., and a hearty vote of thanks recorded on the minutes. Two most excellent Masons, valued highly in their respective provinces of Devon and Hants, were elected joining members, namely, Bro. the Rev. John Huyshe, Deputy Grand Master of Craft Masonry, for Devon, and Bro. the Rev. Dr. Woolley, one of the best Hebrew scholars, and most profound mathematicians of the day. The Brethren advanced to the degree expressed themselves highly gratified and impressed by the additional insight they thus obtained in the beauties of the Masonic system.

THE GRAND CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND AND THEIR SPURIOUS MARK DIPLOMAS.

The Grand Chapter of Scotland, on the 3rd inst., considered a petition from Scotch Mark Masters in London, upon the above point, and came to the following resolution:—"The diploma issued by the Esk Dalkeith Chapter was *neither spurious, nor irregular*, as stated in the petition, although capable of being so misconstrued. In future no Chapter shall affiliate, *in absence*, any companion exalted in an English, Irish, or Foreign Chapter, *without the special sanction* of one of the three Grand Principals, or Deputy Grand Principal, who before issuing his permission shall be satisfied with the *expediency* of the case, the *proofs* of the candidate's companionship, and that he has signed the formula prescribed for all the inferior degrees."

So then it appears that *with the sanction* of certain officials a false certificate may be issued, declaring (by implication) that the within-named brother *has* taken the Mark degree, when he has not.

We commend this instance of the Scotch "double shuffle" to the notice of all English Mark Masters.

Masonic Charities.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

A Quarterly General Court of the Governors and Subscribers to this Institution, was held at the offices, Great Queen Street, on Monday, 18th of January, Bro. John Hervey in the chair.

It was resolved that the Audit Committee should in future meet in February, May, August, and November, instead of January, April, July, and October.

It was also resolved to alter the title of the Institution, by substituting the word "decayed" for "indigent," so that the title will in future be "The Royal Masonic Institution for the Sons of Decayed and Deceased Freemasons."

The Building Fund was ordered to be closed, and the balance in hand (about £8), carried to the General Fund.

A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The annual Festival of this charity was held on Wednesday, the 10th inst.

The chair was occupied by the M.W. the G.M., supported by Bros. Cabbell, Fenwick, Hervey, Parkinson, Jennings, Le Veace, W. Portal, &c. In the course of his remarks, the M.W.G.M. observed upon the small amount contributed to the charity by the Provinces, although out of 25 boys in the School House, 15 are from the country, and the proportion is the same among the remainder of the 70; while the London Brethren contribute no less than two-thirds of the funds. The amount subscribed at the dinner amounted to £1,130; which will, probably, be ultimately increased to £1,200; an amount, which is not so great as the claims of the charity warranted its supporters in expecting.

The thin attendance of Grand Officers was no less remarkable than reprehensible. The exertions of the Board of Stewards, and of the proprietors of the Tavern, merit all praise.

THE GIRLS' SCHOOL.

The Quarterly Court of the Governors of the Girls' School was held on Thursday, 14th of January, at the Freemasons' Tavern, the Worshipful Bro. Benjamin Bond Cabbell, Prov. G. M., for Norfolk, in the chair. There were also present, Bros. White, P.G. Sec.; Udall, P.S.G.D.; Clerk, G. Sec.; J. Hervey, P.G.D.; Adlard, Taylor, Lyall, Binckes, Young, Robinson, Davis, &c., &c.

Bro. Crew having read the minutes of the several meetings of both the House and of the General Committee, which took place within the period which has elapsed since the Quarterly Court in October, they were put to the meeting and unanimously confirmed, and six vacancies declared for the election in May next.

In these minutes, the chief matters worthy of notice were the following. Every care was being taken to remove from the children that feeling of diffidence, the existence of which has been complained of by the Inspector of the Diocesan School Society. The aptitude of the children to undertake household duties has been tested by the House Committee, and found in every way satisfactory. Bro. William Henry Smith, stimulated by the generous example of Bro. Cabbell, has signified his intention of treating the children to a day's amusement at the Crystal Palace, on some fine day during the holidays. Bro. Salomons, on leaving for St. Helena, where he holds a responsible colonial appointment, gave directions to his agent to expend £5 annually in the purchase of books to be distributed as prizes to the more deserving girls upon the occasion of each festival. The House Committee upon ascertaining that one of the pupils was being taught music at the expense of her friends, prevented her instruction being carried further in that accomplishment. The baker who has the contract for the supply of bread, on finding that since he entered upon his contract the price of flour has fallen in the market, offered to make a deduction from his account, an offer which the committee declined to accept, however willing they were to receive back the amount in the shape of a subscription.

The auditors' report stated that the balance to the account of the Institution was £645 12s. 3d., chargeable with £401 18s. 9d. for the payment of the tradesmen's quarterly bills, and £3 4s. 6d. on account of the building fund. They recommended that, in reward for her effective and zealous services, the salary of Miss Kernott, the assistant school-mistress, should be raised from £10 to £20 per annum.

The payment of the accounts, both for the provisions and for the repair of the house, having been ordered, a long discussion took place in reference to the recommendation of the committee with respect to Miss Kernott's salary, resulting in a resolution, moved by Bro. White, and seconded by Bro. John Hervey, to the effect that the committee had no right to make a recommendation upon a matter which fell under the cognizance of the General Court.

As the rule is somewhat ambiguous we quote it at length, and beg leave to say, that to us it appears conclusive of the right of the

committee to make the recommendation. The whole question turns upon whether the word "which" refers to "observations" or to "expenditure." The general rule of grammar is that the relative is to be taken with the substantive last expressed in the sentence, unless otherwise provided for by the punctuation:—

"They are to see that all receipts and payments are correctly entered and registered by the Secretary, and all balances regularly brought forward, and that the subscriptions and donations are posted up, and report their proceedings to the Quarterly Court, with any observations regarding the expenditure which they may deem necessary."

In the above sentence, if a comma followed "observations" and another followed "expenditure;" then the "which" would, without doubt, belong to the former word; but as the sentence is punctuated, "which" must be taken to belong to "expenditure;" and with this reading we see no objection to the committee having acted in the manner complained of.

Bro. Binckes then moved that Miss Kernott's salary should be increased to £20 per annum.

Bro. Barnes seconded the proposition.

The Chairman said it was usual for such motions to come before the Court upon the recommendation of the General Committee, and as the present one was not so introduced, he could not put it for adoption.

The Chairman, as Treasurer, then reported that he had, on the 14th October, invested £500 at 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ % in the Three Per Cent. Consols, making the total sum invested to the credit of the Institution in these securities £6,000. He also moved, in order to avoid fractional accounts, that £28 18s. 7d. should be paid from the General Fund, to increase the Building Fund to £2,200 even money. This was seconded, and after some discussion agreed to.

Bro. John Hervey then moved the abolition of the new law which restricted the right of voting. Every member should, he maintained, have a vote for each vacancy, whereas the new law allowed him to vote for only one.

Bro. Udall seconded the motion, as he considered the limitation dishonest to the subscribers, who had paid their money in the expectation of having the more extended right.

Bro. Robinson said he should not oppose the motion, but wished to explain that he had found that in several Institutions the single voting was now adopted. His wish had been to prevent trafficking in votes.

Bro. White condemned the limitation as unfair.

Bro. Davis moved as an amendment, "That so much of the new law as provided for carrying forward the votes from one election to another should be retained."

Bro. Robinson seconded the amendment.

The Chairman then put the amendment to the meeting, which, on a show of hands, he declared to be lost.

Bro. Binckes then moved—"That in order to meet the educational requirements of the age, the education of the children be enlarged by the addition of French and Music; and that it be referred to the House Committee to take measures for carrying the same into effect." Our worthy Brother, in advocating his proposal, said he would never have brought it forward if the children in the school were of that class whom a superior education would raise above their original level, and render them unfit to occupy the same position in life which their parents filled. He, however, regretted that the committee had admitted to the school children of a lower class than that for which it was originally intended. The majority of the pupils, however, were the children of those who had seen better days, and the education which those little girls received in the school was not quite up to the mark. He did not wish to unfit them for life, but to so far improve their education as to enable them, on entering the world, to look for higher situations than they were now competent to fill. He did not, he conceived, ask for too much when he called upon the Court to give the children instruction in French and music. Such instruction was given to the children in the Commercial Travellers' Schools, and in the Schools of the St. Ann's and the Yorkshire Societies. The children in those Schools were, on an average, of the same class in life as the children in the Freemasons' School, and it was a downright cruelty to them to educate them to a point, below that which would enable them to regain in life the position which their parents had formerly enjoyed.

Rev. Bro. Lyall seconded the motion.

Bro. John Hervey thought that, before agreeing to the proposition, they ought to have some statistics of the employment of the children after they left the school.

Bro. Crew said, that not one in fifty of them became a menial servant; and that the widows of Brethren who had been in good circumstances actually shunned the school, as they did not wish their daughters to be brought up as washerwomen.

Bro. Taylor said that the education of the children had been already greatly enlarged under the new schoolmistress, but at the sacrifice of the needlework, which formerly brought in a considerable sum annually for the support of the Institution.

Bro. Crew denied that the children were not still instructed in the use of the needle. At present they annually made for the boys thirty-six dozen of shirts, and sixty dozen of collars, besides making all their own clothing.

After some farther discussion, an amendment, referring the matter to the General Committee, was adopted, the chairman, on an equal division, giving his vote in favour of it. The proceedings then terminated.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

On Friday, the 5th inst., a Special General Meeting of the Subscribers of this Institution was held, in pursuance of a requisition, signed by upwards of twelve Life Governors—"To consider the propriety of having an Annual or Biennial Festival, in accordance with rule 29, and to take such measures with respect thereto as may be deemed expedient."

Bro. John Savage, V.P., was called to the chair.

Bro. Symonds stated, that as he thought it desirable to give an opportunity for the ventilation of opinions before any definite resolution should be proposed, for either a Biennial or Annual Festival, he had proposed a resolution with that object, which he had no doubt would pass unanimously. He then moved a resolution to the effect, that as the number of candidates, both Brethren and Widows, so far exceeded the number of vacancies, it was desirable with a view to increase the Funds to hold Festivals more frequently than once in three years.

The motion was seconded by Bro. Parkinson, P.J.G.D.

Considerable discussion ensued. The question of an Annual or Biennial Festival was mooted, and one Brother (Bro. Barrett) seemed to object to any alteration of the present practice of Triennial Festivals, but he did not persist in his opposition, and ultimately the motion passed unanimously.

Bro. Joseph Smith, G. P. M., moved a resolution to the effect, that in the opinion of the meeting, the future Festivals should be held *Biennially*. He stated that he considered it desirable in making any change to proceed with caution, and as the M.W.G.M. was understood to have stated that he would offer no opposition to a Festival once in two years, he thought the meeting would do wisely to accept the proposition.

Bro. Aldrick seconded the motion. Although wishing for an Annual Festival he thought it desirable to begin with a Biennial.

Bro. Warren moved as an amendment, that the Festivals should be held *Annually*, and strongly urged the meeting to adopt this course. All charitable Institutions had their Annual Festivals, indeed, those which had tried the experiment of collecting Funds in other modes had been compelled to resume their Annual Public Dinners, finding that the discontinuance of these dinners had caused a considerable diminution of income. He saw no reason why this Institution should be an exception. He was told that if the G.M. did not give his consent the Festival could not be held in Masonic clothing; but for his own part, he would always infinitely prefer dining without his Masonic clothing than with it.

Bro. Hewlett seconded the amendment.

Bro. Symonds stated that after listening to the arguments pro and con, he was decidedly of opinion that the best course would be to adopt the motion of Bro. Smith. He thought it very desirable to avoid discord, which must in the end have an injurious effect on the Charity, and to endeavour to secure, by adopting Biennial Festivals, the support of the G.M. and of the large number of influential Brethren who would be guided by the course taken by him. It was necessary to bear in mind that the two other Charities had held annual Festivals for years, and therefore had a kind of vested interest in them, and as it would hardly be wise to calculate on the certain continuance of the recent extraordinary prosperity of Masonry, any step which might operate to their detriment ought not to be taken without grave consideration. With reference to Bro. Warren's remarks on dining in Masonic clothing, he thought the wearing of the clothing, coupled with the power of introducing Ladies to the Gallery, had great effect in procuring Stewards.

The amendment having been put to the vote was lost by a considerable majority, and the original motion carried.

It was resolved that the arrangement of the period for holding the Festival should be referred to the Committee, who were likewise instructed to request the permission of the M.W.G.M. to its being held in Masonic clothing.

Thanks were voted to Bro. Savage for his conduct in the Chair, and the Meeting adjourned.

Colonial.

CANADA.

The following are the communications laid before G.L., relative to the resignation of the P.G.M. of Quebec:—

"TORONTO, CANADA, 9th Nov., 1857.

"V.W. Sir and Brother,—It is with sincere regret that I feel myself compelled to resign the high and honourable offices of Provincial Grand Master and Provincial Grand Superintendent for Quebec and Three Rivers, &c., in this Province, which I have had the honour and pleasure of holding for some years. I request you to make this known to the M.W. the Earl of Zetland, with as little delay as possible, to enable him, if he feels so disposed, to take the necessary steps for the appointment of a successor, and at the same time, be so good as to tender to him from me, my earnest thanks for his kindness in raising me to such high rank in English Freemasonry,—a rank that will ever be a source of pride and gratification to me, although in the present unfortunate and conflicting condition of Freemasonry in Canada, I feel obliged, as an honest Mason, to place my offices at the disposal of the M.W. Grand Master. I do so with unfeigned reluctance, but I feel that it is my duty, and that I have no other honorable course to pursue.

"It is now upwards of a twelvemonth since I addressed a long communication to the Grand Secretary (18th September, 1856,) on the condition of the Craft in Canada, and therein I foreshadowed all that has since come to pass. My warnings were plain and unmistakable; and again and again I pointed out the *evil of delay*. My letter was simply acknowledged, and does not appear to have had the effect I hoped for. I firmly believe that prompt action on the part of the Grand Lodge of England, at the time that letter was transmitted, would have preserved Canada, although some Brethren would not have returned to their allegiance. However, regret is now useless. Matters have been getting worse and worse, and the warmest adherents and friends of England have been obliged to declare themselves in favour of Independent Masonic Government. We have felt it impossible to blind our eyes to the fact that such *must* be the finale,—that Lodges and Brethren had been driven to make up their minds to such a result,—and that Provincial Grand Authorities would soon have neither Lodges nor Brethren to govern. I might here dwell upon the fact of the formation of an Independent Body already,—the growing alienation of personal friends,—and a division among Masons fast becoming more and more irreconcilable.

"1. I transmit a printed copy of the proceedings of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, now called the '*Ancient Grand Lodge of Canada*,' which will explain very fully all that has occurred. I have taken my part therein, and there never was a more truthful document than the farewell Address that we passed as an independent body. Our new organization is indeed '*the creation of a stern necessity*,' not one of our choice or feeling. No man carries more prestige with him in Canada than Brother Sir Allan Napier MacNab, who has been chosen for the first Grand Master. His loyalty is not to be questioned,—his standing in Canada is undeniable,—and nothing but his conviction that our present movement is unavoidable, would have placed him at the head of our body. Those proceedings will show that we have thought of England from first to last. We really do look upon the change as one more of *letter* than of *spirit*. We have made no sudden wrench, but have glided into our present position, and our *English* affection remains in strong force. I had no hesitation (when called upon to do so) about installing Sir Allan,—but, keeping in view the whole tenor of our proceedings,—having perused letters from England referring to our *recognition*,—remembering the Grand Master's positive words about the return of Warrants,—and feeling that we had performed an unpleasant, but stern duty, in a constitutional, and, at the same time, affectionate manner to our *old country*, I really deemed myself (as I stated to my Brethren) acting more as the Deputy of the M.W. Grand Master, than as a person giving up and separating from old ties and connections.

"The Quebec Lodges (*Three*) have decided not to withdraw their allegiance from England, but to accept the M.W. Grand Master's propositions, and they have elected (as the accompanying document will show) Brother James Dean, of Alma Lodge, No. 931, to be my successor as Provincial Grand Master. I deem it, however, to be my duty to state, that some Quebec Brethren regard this question of Independent Government as one of *time* simply. I have been informed that it is quite likely the Albion Lodge, No. 17, will cease working. There will then be two only, and whether a Provincial Grand Master is necessary or not will be for the M.W.

the Earl of Zetland to decide. I deem it right, also, to state that the Military Brethren took a prominent part in the determination arrived at. They have been stationed at Quebec very recently,—they may leave as suddenly as they came, and they cannot be familiar with the events and grievances that have brought about the present issue. There is only *one* Chapter in the district. I mention these facts, in order that the M.W. Grand Master may be able to consider all matters rightly.

"In conclusion, I beg to express my earnest hope that recognition will be accorded at once, and that the *honest prayer* of our farewell address will be granted without drawback, so that we may go hand-in-hand with the Grand Lodge of England, and work for her and with her, as our hearts will ever dictate, although (having the *three* existing Grand Lodges of the Empire for our precedent) we have been *compelled* to declare ourselves, and think it imperative for a *fourth Grand Lodge* to spring into existence to rule over not an unimportant portion of that glorious Empire,—a portion which *may*, before the lapse of many years, cause our beloved Sovereign to be styled the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and British North America!

"I consider myself *obliged* to resign my present offices, but if the M.W. Grand Master would exchange them for the appointment of his Representative in the '*Ancient Grand Lodge of Canada*,' I should regard the appointment as expressive of his confidence, would undertake the duties appertaining to it with pride and pleasure, and in that honourable capacity, and as a Past Provincial Grand Master, would be rejoiced to look after English Masonic interests, and I do not anticipate that I should be otherwise than acceptable to my Brethren here, who have already thought proper to confer upon me the rank of a Past Grand Master.

"I beg to remain, V.W. Sir and Brother,

"Yours fraternally and truly,

(Signed) T. DOUGLAS HARINGTON,
P.G.M., and P.G. Sup.
Quebec and Three Rivers, &c."

"V.W. Bro. Wm. G. Clarke, Esq.,
Grand Secretary, &c., &c., &c."

"Freemasons' Hall, London; December 5, 1857.

"Sir and Brother,—The Grand Secretary has laid before me your letter, received the 27th November, in which

"1st. You tender the resignation of your office as Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent of the District of Quebec.

"2nd. You state that you firmly believe that prompt action on the part of the Grand Lodge in September last would have preserved Canada, although some Brethren would not have returned to their allegiance.

"3rd. That you have been driven to throw off your allegiance.

"4th. You transmit a copy of the proceedings of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, now calling itself the "*Ancient Grand Lodge of Canada*," and refer to letters received from England, and to my words about the return of Warrants.

"5th. You forward a Memorial from the Lodges of the District of Quebec, recommending a Brother to be appointed Provincial Grand Master.

"6th. You express an earnest hope that recognition will be accorded at once, and that a fourth Grand Lodge will be acknowledged.

"7th. You offer yourself as representative of the Grand Lodge of England in the so-called Ancient Grand Lodge of Canada.

"For the purposes of convenience, I propose to notice these *seriatim*:—

"1st. While I accept with regret the resignation of your offices of Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent for the District of Quebec, I acknowledge with pleasure and satisfaction the courteous and Masonic feeling which is expressed in your letter.

"2nd. Upon a review of all the circumstances, I cannot bring myself to believe that that which you describe as the present "unfortunate and conflicting condition of Freemasonry in Canada" would have been prevented, had the propositions which I thought it right to make to Grand Lodge in March last been made in the September preceding. When I consider that the commencement of the steps which I, as Grand Master, and the Grand Lodge were willing to take for the relief of the inconveniences existing in Canada was made known to you in March last; that those steps included, in spirit and in fact, the granting to the Canadian Masons everything which they prayed for, except independence of their mother Grand Lodge; and when I learn, as I now do, that, with this knowledge in full view, *thirty-four* Lodges agree in September following to throw off their allegiance, I cannot do otherwise than come to the conclusion that there are, and have been from the commence-

ment, other and internal causes of dissension amongst our Canadian Brethren which have—more than the inconveniences and delay arising on this side of the water—led to the separation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, and the complication of difficulties in which the Brethren of that province are now involved. It appears to me, that concessions, which were acknowledged to be ample, could not be “too late” when made many months before the separation took place.

“3rd. The movement towards independence—which commenced so early as 1852, before those circumstances had occurred, which, it has been alleged, brought it into existence—did not, I have reason to believe, originate with the English Lodges; and I have good grounds for believing that, even up to the present time, but very few Lodges holding under the Grand Lodge of England, have given their adhesion to the so-called Independent Grand Lodge. Be that, however, as it may, it is clear now, from the documents laid before me, that, besides those who have not wavered from, or who have returned to their allegiance, no less a number than thirty-four Lodges, constituting together a very large majority of all the Lodges existing in the Provinces, could hardly be said to be driven by a small minority into a secession from the parent body.

“4th. I have read with regret and pain the details of the proceedings of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West, in September last. I know of no letters emanating from authority in this country, nor of any words of mine, which, by possibility, could be construed into justifying, far less recommending, the proceedings which it is stated then took place. I regret that any one should have been so ill advised as to write such letters, or that any Brethren in Canada should have been deceived by them. I regret also, that the expressions used by me should have been so much misunderstood, the term “rebellious” seeming to give offence. I stated, ‘that I applied that term to Brethren who had thrown off their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England, and that without returning the Warrants they held under it; and I thought that Grand Lodge would agree with me that I did not unjustly apply that term.’ I recommended no course of action then; I give no opinion now; but thus much I may say, that I see a wide distinction between the breaking up of a Lodge and the surrender of its Warrant by the free will of the Brethren composing it, and the subsequent formation of new Lodges under another authority, and the formation of an independent and antagonistic jurisdiction by those who are still the holders of the Warrants of that Grand Lodge whose authority they are determined to subvert, whilst they are yet under a solemn vow to support, uphold, and maintain it. I have read with astonishment, not unmingled with indignation, the following words, said to have been uttered by the Provincial Grand Master:—‘The Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West having now declared its independence, I, as the representative of the M.W. Grand Master of England, now direct and require that every Master or Delegate holding any Warrant of a Lodge from the Grand Lodge of England do now return the same to me, in accordance with the suggestion of the Grand Master of England, contained in his address to the Grand Lodge on the 4th of March last.’ I am bound to say that in this (and in my name) directing and requiring Brethren to surrender their Warrants, the Provincial Grand Master, not only assumed a power which I, as Grand Master, had no authority either to exercise myself or delegate to him, but which is directly opposed to the very essence and spirit of the Constitutions.

“5th. Enclosing a Memorial from the Lodges of the district of Quebec, you suggest that I should consider the propriety, or otherwise, of appointing a Provincial Grand Master to preside over only three Lodges. The Lodges in the district of Quebec are the same in number as they were during the time when you presided over them. Remaining faithful in their allegiance, and having signified their wish to have a Provincial Grand Master appointed as your successor, in accordance with the proposition made by me in March last, I can have no hesitation in approving of the Brother whom they have recommended to me, and I have, accordingly, appointed Brother James Dean to succeed you as Provincial Grand Master for Quebec and Three Rivers.

“6th. Whilst I abstain from giving an opinion whether any or what circumstances can absolve Masons from their moral obligation, and justify them in separation from their Mother Grand Lodge, I conceive it to be my duty to point out that ‘in the present unfortunate and conflicting condition of Freemasonry in Canada, it is impossible that I could consistently with my duty as Grand Master, and the obligation of my office, recommend to the Grand Lodge the recognition of either of the bodies which have recently assumed the power of erecting themselves into a Grand Lodge. To do so would be inconsistent with the first principles of Masonic Unity. Of the Lodges existing in the Provinces of Canada, and holding under the

Grand Lodge of England, the Warrants of seven have been returned by those who have joined the Independent Grand Lodge, whilst 34 have been returned by those who have joined Ancient Grand Lodge, leaving a large number of Lodges of which some are known to remain firm in their allegiance, and of the secession of others there is no official record. It is plain that the Grand Lodge of England has no right or title to absolve from their allegiance the Brethren who are anxious to preserve it; it is equally clear that it is the duty,—the sacred duty, of the Grand Master and Grand Lodge to support them in maintaining their allegiance and in preserving inviolate their obligation to their Parent Grand Lodge. Bearing in mind that there are already two self-erected Grand Lodges in Canada; that there are many Lodges which have not joined either; that there are others who, having never wavered in their fidelity, pray to have a Provincial Grand Master appointed in the place of him who has seceded from them, and who desire to remain under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, I cannot think that any reasonable Mason will, upon a calm and deliberate review of the facts, come to any other conclusion than that recognition is impossible; and that even were it accorded, it would lead only to increased confusion.

“7th. You offer to accept the office of Representative of the Grand Lodge of England in the ‘Ancient Grand Lodge of Canada.’ For the reasons stated in the preceding paragraph you will at once perceive that that is impossible.

“I cannot contemplate without the deepest concern the separation of so many Lodges from the Parent Body, and the more so when it is attempted to be shown that the conduct of the Grand Lodge of England has driven them to that course; when I reflect that separation has taken place at a period many months subsequent to the time when all reasonable complaints have been remedied, and when effectual means had been taken to prevent their recurrence; when I know that many of the delays complained of by Lodges originated not from the neglect of the Grand Lodge of England, but from the neglect of the Provincial Officers to forward returns to London entrusted to them for that purpose; when I remember that the neglect of the duties of his Office by the Provincial Grand Master, whom I appointed, has been one of the main causes of dissatisfaction most prominently brought forward in official correspondence, and insisted on, even in minute detail, in memorials from Canada; when I remember that in consequence of such alleged neglect the Brethren desired to be permitted to elect their own Provincial Grand Master, and that such permission has been virtually conceded to them, and when I learn that the very first act of the new body has been to elect to supreme office, the very Brother whose conduct has been so severely arraigned as leading to the difficulties complained of; I am irresistibly led to the conclusion that there are other causes than those which have been already declared, and which caused the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West to throw off the authority of the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of England, who have always felt, and still continue to feel, a deep and affectionate interest in the welfare of their Brethren in Canada.

“Commending these matters to your earnest consideration, and that of your Brethren,

“I am, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

(Signed)

“ZETLAND, G.M.”

“To T. D. Harrington, Esq., Quebec.”

TASMANIA.

Memorial presented to G.L. relative to Suspension of Lodge, 781.
TO THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED
MASON OF ENGLAND.

The Memorial of the undersigned Members of the Antient and Honourable Order of Free and Accepted Masons residing in and near Hobart Town, in the Island of Tasmania,

“Most respectfully Sheweth,

“That in December, 1856, the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England was pleased, by virtue of the prerogative vested in him by the Book of Constitutions, to issue a patent appointing the Rev. R. K. Ewing to be the R.W. Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Tasmania, during his pleasure:

“And whereas, we the undersigned consider that such prerogative has been used without due enquiry as to ‘eminence and ability in the Craft’ of the Brother whom the Most Worshipful the Grand Master has thought worthy of the appointment:

“And whereas, we believe ourselves to be justified in such opinion, in consequence of the appointment having been made on petition and representation forwarded to the W.M. the Grand Master from

certain Brethren residing at Launceston, without apprising any member of Lodge, No. 781, or other Brethren at Hobart Town, of their intention, or in any way inviting the concurrence of the said Brethren, or Lodge, No. 781, whose members were equally interested in such appointment, or affording them an opportunity to express their opinion respecting it, or pointing out to the M.W. the Grand Master the local disadvantages and expense that would accrue to the Brethren of the south by having to attend Provincial Grand Lodge at the extreme north of the Province, and *vice versa* :

"And whereas, immediately on being made acquainted with such appointment, the members of Lodge, No. 781, met in open Lodge and Chapter, and passed a series of resolutions, acknowledging the prerogative of the M.W. the Grand Master to appoint whom he pleased to be Prov. G.M. of any province, but solemnly protesting against being placed under any Prov. G.M. without being afforded an opportunity of expressing their opinion respecting him; especially one, who, at a distance of 16,000 miles, could only be Masonically known to the W.M. the Grand Master from representation, he having been comparatively recently initiated in this colony, and his *'eminence and ability in the Craft'* totally unknown, even at Hobart Town, previous to his appointment as Prov. G.M. :

"And whereas, *previous* to his having been *installed* or *obligated*, and consequently without any constitutional power in the province [see clauses Nos. 5 and 10, Summary of Antient Charges], he the Prov. G.M. by his Secretary, wrote for lists of members, &c., of Lodge, No. 781, which the W.M. declined to forward to him, pending the issue of the resolutions passed by the Lodge and Chapter and forwarded to the M.W. the Grand Master :

"And whereas, on being informed by the W.M. of No. 781, that such a series of resolutions had been passed, the said Prov. G.M. (still not having been installed nor obligated), wrote to the W.M. demanding a copy of such resolutions, which for reasons set forth were not sent to him pending the reply of the M.W. the G.M. :

"And whereas, the Prov. G.M., having subsequently fixed a day for his installation and for constituting the Prov. Grand Lodge of Tasmania, *invited* the Members of Lodge, No. 781, to be present by their representatives, which invitation, for reasons set forth, they did not avail themselves of, and which invitation clearly shows that he, the Prov. G.M. did not at that time consider any act of contumacy to have been committed :

"And whereas, it is presumed such installation of the Prov. G.M. and constituting such Prov. Grand Lodge did take place, and the said Prov. G.M. was then, and not until then, duly and constitutionally vested with the powers conferred by his patent, he, the said Prov. G.M. immediately hastened to exercise his alleged authority, and did, on the second day of May, 1857, and within seventeen days after such presumed installation, forward to the W.M. his order for the suspension of Lodge, No. 781 from the performance of any Masonic functions :

"And whereas, after the presumed installation of the Prov. G.M. and Constitution of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Tasmania, no communication whatever was addressed to the W.M. or any officer or member of No. 781, either by the Prov. G.M. or any member of the Prov. Grand Lodge, nor any summons, special or peremptory, to attend the Prov. G.M. or Prov. Grand Lodge issued, nor any charge of any kind exhibited against the W.M., officers, or members of No. 781, nor any notice relative thereto, forwarded to the W.M., officers, or members, of the said Lodge, previous to the receipt by the W.M. of the aforesaid order of suspension, dated 2nd May, 1857 :

"And whereas, such order of suspension has been pronounced to be arbitrary and unconstitutional by all influential members of the Craft, who have had the benefit of Masonic experience in England, and whose opinion we have been enabled to obtain, and more especially by one of the most experienced English P.M.'s now residing in Victoria, he being one of the best working Masons in these colonies, whose opinion we have also sought, and who, after perusing the whole of the correspondence on this subject, states as follows :—
'The extreme steps taken by the Prov. G.M. were not warranted until after two summonses at least, the last to set forth most pointedly the objects; in fact, calling the Lodge to trial by its officers.'

"And further:—'If such peremptory summonses were neglected, the Prov. G.M. should make a third attempt, before suspending the Lodge.'

"And he adds:—'The proceedings of the Prov. G.M. as the head, were a departure from constitutional usage, and subversive of the great principles of Masonry—Friendship, Love, and Truth.'

"And whereas, in consequence of the conviction that such suspension by the Prov. G.M. was not only arbitrary, but in direct violation of the Book of Constitutions, conformity to which is equally binding on the rulers as on other members of the Craft (see

clause 5, Summary of Ancient Charges), and having sought the best advice from such members of eminence and ability in the Craft as we were able to consult on the subject, and finding their opinion coincided with our own, we were induced to join in carrying on the regular business of the Lodge and Chapter No. 781, until the pleasure of the M.W. the G.M., to whom we appealed through the W.M. of No. 781, should be made known to us :

"And whereas, it appears that the M.W. the G.M. has forwarded the correspondence on the subject to the Colonial Board to report upon, and the Colonial Board have recommended the Grand Lodge to confirm the suspension of Lodge, No. 781, by the Prov. G.M. :

"And whereas, since receipt of opinion of the Colonial Board, the W.M., P.M.'s, and Committee of Management of Lodge, No. 781, from an anxious desire to pay homage to the M.W. the G.M. for the time being, and to his Officers, when *duly installed*, and strictly to conform to every edict of the Grand Lodge [Antient Constitutions] have determined to close the said Lodge until the pleasure of the Grand Lodge shall be made known :

"And whereas, such suspension of the operations of Lodge, No. 781, is detrimental to the cause of Freemasonry in the southern portion of Tasmania, inasmuch as Lodge, No. 781 is the only warranted Lodge, under the Grand Lodge of England, on the southern side of the Province of Tasmania, and is situate 120 miles from Launceston, the next locality of a warranted Lodge under such Constitution; and inasmuch as Lodge, No. 781, for nearly fourteen years, has paid large sums by fees and contributions to the Grand Lodge of England, and has not in one single instance recommended an object for relief from the Benevolent Funds of the Grand Lodge, having invariably relieved distressed worthy Brethren from the local Masonic Benevolent Fund; and also, inasmuch as the Officers and members of Lodge, No. 781, with a view to more widely extend the benefits of Freemasonry, recently recommended the M.W. the G.M. to issue warrants for holding two new Lodges in and near Hobart Town, to be called the Pacific Lodge, to be held at Hobart Town, and the Derwent Lodge, to be held at New Norfolk, and forwarded the fees payable thereon, which are still retained by the G. Sec., although such applications were returned for the opinion of the present Prov. G.M., and have been again transmitted to the G. Sec., with letters from the Brethren named as W.M.'s of such proposed new Lodges as aforesaid, stating it would be useless asking his opinion or recommendation respecting the applications, pending the result of the appeal against his unconstitutional order of suspension :

"And whereas, since receipt of an extract of the report of the Colonial Board, recommending the Grand Lodge to confirm the suspension of Lodge, No. 781, by the Prov. G.M., he, the said Prov. G.M., has sought an interview with a few of the members of No. 781, including the W.M., and refused to acknowledge that he has acted either arbitrarily or unconstitutionally in suspending the said Lodge *without notice or summons*, and still persists in such arbitrary, unprecedented, and unconstitutional treatment; and further, has threatened that in the event of the members of No. 781 refusing to make due submission to him for what he is pleased to call contumacy, that he will recommend the Grand Lodge to proceed to the next step in Masonic discipline, by which it is presumed he refers to the extreme measure of expulsion :

"And whereas, from the circumstances above detailed, we believe that the confirmation by the Grand Lodge of the suspension of No. 781 by the Prov. G.M. of Tasmania, can only be ratified in the absence of a knowledge of the facts hereinbefore set forth :

"And whereas, we, who have hereto subscribed our names, comprise nearly, if not the whole, of those residing in and near Hobart Town who have ever held office in this, or the neighbouring colonies, under the Constitution of England; have at great expense leased and fitted up a private room or hall, suited for Lodge and Chapter purposes, which we retain exclusively for Masonic ceremonies, at a rental of £50 per annum; and have, therefore, considerable pecuniary, as well as other interest in the prosperity of the Craft :

"And whereas, we wish to assure the M.W. the G.M. and the members of the Grand Lodge that the steps taken by the Officers and members of No. 781, were not adopted with any view of questioning the validity of the patent of the Prov. G.M. of Tasmania, but on the sole ground that he had arbitrarily and unconstitutionally used, and therefore, abused the power with which it invested him :

"And whereas, we wish most respectfully to represent to the M.W. the G.M. and the members of the United Grand Lodge of Freemasons of England, that although we are anxious to preserve inviolate our allegiance to the G.M. and the United Grand Lodge of England, that our allegiance is pledged to hold in veneration the original

rulers and patrons of the Order of Masonry, and their regular successors, supreme and subordinate, according to their stations, and to submit to the award and resolutions of our Brethren in General Chapter convened, in every case consistent with the constitutions of the Order: Our allegiance likewise enjoins us to discountenance all dissenters from the original plan of the institution. We are also pledged to admit that it is not in the power of any man, or in any body of men, to make innovation in the body of Masonry: And further, to pay homage to the G. M. for the time being, and to his officers, when duly installed, and strictly to conform to every edict of the Grand Lodge or General Assembly of Masons, that is not subversive of the principles and ground-work of Masonry—such being the terms of our Masonic allegiance, no circumstances whatever, will induce us to work under any constitution that will countenance the slightest departure from the original plan of Masonry, or any innovation of the ancient constitutions, and established usages and customs of the Order:

"And whereas, we firmly believe the longer existence of Freemasonry under the constitution of the United Grand Lodge of England, on the southern side of Tasmania, to be entirely dependent on the decision of the Grand Lodge, relative to this appeal:

"We, therefore, do most respectfully and urgently pray,

"That the members of the United Grand Lodge of England, in Grand Lodge assembled, will take the whole of the above circumstances into their mature consideration, and will call for the production of all documents relating thereto, particularly the recommendation and representation that induced the M.W. the G.M. to appoint the Rev. R. K. Ewing; no member of No. 781, the senior Lodge in Tasmania, ever having seen or been requested to sign such document, or to join in such recommendation; and also copies of the resolutions passed both by Lodge and Chapter in reference thereto; and likewise the applications for warrants to hold the Pacific and Derwent Lodges, with all correspondence thereon; and at the same time to carefully peruse the printed and other correspondence hereunto annexed;

"And we further pray,

"That for the purpose of restoring Masonic harmony to this portion of our province, and enabling us again to carry on the duties of Masonry in a constitutional manner, which the recent events above detailed, have interrupted, the members of the Grand Lodge will, on reviewing the whole of this important case, pass such resolutions and adopt such measures as to them may appear suited to the circumstances, and which may have the effect of causing the issue of the warrants recommended by Lodge, No. 781, and the division of the island of Tasmania, into North and South Masonic provinces; and that they will on our behalf nominate Bro. Charles Toby, or any other of the Past Masters of Lodge, No. 781, to the M.W. the G.M., as fit and proper persons to fill the office of Prov. G.M. for South Tasmania, all such Brethren in the opinion of your memorialists being possessed of the requisite qualifications to insure the confidence of the brotherhood, and such being in accordance with the opinions expressed by the M.W. the G.M., at the Quarterly Communication in March last, previous to the date of the order of suspension of No. 781.

"And we beg to assure the Grand Lodge, in the event of the M.W. the G.M. using his prerogative to so divide the province, and appointing any one of the above Brethren as Prov. G.M. for South Tasmania, and legalizing and confirming all the proceedings of Lodge and Chapter, No. 781, while under the unconstitutional suspension of the Rev. R. K. Ewing, and granting the prayer of the petitions for the issue of warrants for holding the Pacific and Derwent Lodges; or in the event of the M.W. the G.M., or the members of the United Grand Lodge, wishing for further information on the subject, before making such division of the island, and appointing a Prov. G.M. for the southern portion of it, if the M.W. the G.M., will in the mean time order the issue of all warrants that may be recommended by Lodge, No. 781, and exempt all Lodges held or to be held in and near Hobart Town from making returns or payment of dues to, or attendance at, the Prov. Grand Lodge at Launceston; or being in any way, whatever, subject to the rule of the Rev. R. K. Ewing; and permit such Lodges to forward all returns, fees, and dues, direct to the G. Sec. in London, as heretofore, until further provincial arrangements may be completed, that we pledge ourselves to continue to exert our best endeavours to promote and diffuse the genuine principles of Freemasonry, and hereby renew our promise of strict obedience to the commands of the M.W. the G.M., and the laws and regulations of the United Grand Lodge of England.

"The memorial is signed by Charles Toby, W.M., No. 781, Z Chapter, No. 781, and 112 other Brethren..

The M.W. Grand Master directed the following reply to be sent to Bro. Charles Toby, W.M. No. 781.

"Freemasons' Hall, London; 15th December, 1857.

"W. Sir and Brother,

"I have received and laid before the M.W. the Grand Master the Earl of Zetland, your letter, dated September 9th, and received on the 30th November; and I am commanded by his Lordship to express, in the most decided terms, his condemnation of the conduct which you, as W. Master of the Union Lodge, No. 781, have pursued towards the R.W. Brother the Rev. R. K. Ewing, Prov. G. Master for Tasmania.

"The proceedings of Brother Ewing appear to have been regular and constitutional; and consequently meet with the approval of the M.W. the Grand Master. I may observe in addition, that his appointment as Prov. Grand Master seems to be acceptable to the majority of the Lodges in the Island: whilst his offer to hold a Prov. Grand Lodge once a year in Hobart Town, and to appoint his Deputy from amongst the members of No. 781, evinces no want of inclination on his part to promote the advancement and convenience of the Brethren of that Lodge. Obedience is one of the first duties inculcated by Masonic law; that law is one of reason, not of force. The appointment of the Prov. Grand Master was in every respect regular; and it is, therefore, clearly the duty of the Brethren in the Province to acknowledge his authority as the Representative of the M.W. Grand Master.

"That you, as W. Master of No. 781, protest against such appointment, in no way absolves you from the necessity of obeying the laws which have been enacted by the Grand Lodge, and which all Masons are bound to observe. The Grand Master, equally with all Masons, must administer and obey the law as it is found in the Constitutions. It is provided (see page 115) that where there is a Provincial Grand Master of a district or province in which the Lodge is proposed to be holden, the Petition is first to be sent to him, or to his Deputy, who is to forward it, with his recommendation or opinion thereon, for the Grand Master; and the Grand Master has not the power (nor if he had has there been sufficient cause shown to induce him to exercise it) of permitting that law to be disobeyed. I am further directed to inform you, that although it is the anxious wish of his Lordship to carry out the intentions expressed by him in March last, and referred to in your letter, that in the division, and where necessary, the subdivision—of Districts, he did not contemplate—neither does he think that it would be for the interest of the Craft that he should do so—the appointment of a Provincial Grand Master to rule over only one Lodge. Wherever, now or hereafter, circumstances may warrant it, his Lordship will not hesitate to appoint additional Provincial Grand Masters.

"I am further directed by his Lordship to state that the tone of your correspondence, and especially of your last letter, is one which meets with his serious disapproval. Describing yourself as a Mason of twenty-three years' standing, and as Master of your Lodge, you cannot be unaware of the heavy responsibility you are under, both as regards yourself in your own conduct, and the example which you set to your Brethren. You cannot expect continued obedience to your own authority, or to the extended authority which, it appears, you are anxious of obtaining, unless you set your Brethren the example in submitting to lawfully constituted authority. To threaten that, unless the particular wishes of yourself and your Lodge were complied with, you will throw off your allegiance, is as disrespectful as it is unconstitutional and unmasonic. The fact of the suspension of your Lodge, by the Provincial Grand Master, having been notified to and confirmed by the M.W. Grand Master, was further reported on and recommended by the Colonial Board, and adopted by the Grand Lodge, at the Quarterly Communication in September last, will, I hope, induce you to reflect on the course you have hitherto followed, and prompt you to seek a speedy removal of the disabilities under which you at present labor.

"I return the petitions for the warrants, with a strong and fraternal recommendation that you submit them, as the law requires, for the opinion and recommendation of the Provincial Grand Master.

"His Lordship further desires me to express his earnest hope that sufficient time has now elapsed for all feeling of heat and anger to have passed away; that you will, in the true spirit of brotherly love and sincerity, offer the right hand of fellowship. That by-gones being forgotten, you will unite in the determination to work together with that good feeling and harmony which is not only characteristic of our order, but is essential to its advancement in itself, and to its reputation in the profane world.

"I remain, W. Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

"WM. GRAY CLARKE, G.S.

"To Charles Toby, Esq., Hobart Town, Tasmania."

The Provinces.

BERKS AND BUCKS.—We are given to understand that the last P. G. L.'s held in the above Provinces were, at Reading, in 1852, and at Windsor, in 1848. *This accounts for the return from these united Provinces being missing!*

SOMERSET.—*United Meeting of the Masons of Bath.*—We very much regret that our circumscribed space precludes the possibility of giving a detailed report of this meeting. Not the least pleasing feature of this inauguration of a new era in local Masonry, was the presence of the chief magistrate of the City of Bath (Bro. Dr. Wilbraham Falconer, P.P.G. S. W., and P. G. Treasurer, Somerset,) in the capacity of W. M.* Under the direction of so skilled a Craftsman as the W. Bro., the proceedings in Lodge could not fail to be of the most satisfactory character. It must be a rare occurrence in the annals of Masonry, that the ornate chair, without losing any of its proper dignity, lends an additional grace to the Master's pedestal. There were present on the occasion many distinguished Grand Officers of Somerset and the neighbouring Provinces. At the conclusion of the Lodge business, the Brethren, more than one hundred in number, adjourned to the banquet in the Guildhall, which was supplied by Bro. Amery (Amery's Hotel), under the presidency of the V. W. Bro. Dr. Falconer, Mayor of Bath. We report the speech of Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon, as it has reference to the general policy which the noble Brother has so ably vindicated, and which he will still advocate in G. L. Bro. the Earl of Carnarvon said, he was sure he should speak the feelings of all around him when he said he should not lightly forget what he had witnessed to-night. He felt deeply the kind way in which his health had been received; but, though it was true he was enjoying the happiness of their hospitality as a visitor, at the same time he was no stranger. To the West of England he was attached by the strong ties of property, and by the yet stronger ties of early and happy association. He was no stranger, either, to the Masons of Bath; it was not the first time he had partaken of their hospitality—he hoped it would not be the last. And he had not only come down with pleasure because the West of England had attractions for him, but because he was glad to bear his share on an occasion like the present, with which he must entirely sympathize. When he was here some twelve months since (he spoke with all frankness), he had been pained by much that he had seen and heard here. It was evident that a dark shadow had fallen upon Masonry in this town. With great zeal and earnestness, it was evident that a cold phantom of mistrust and reserve had glided in between the brethren where there should have been the cordial sympathy of brotherhood. But he rejoiced to see now that the dark vapour of night had rolled away, and left all bright, glowing, genial, and sunny. That was the picture they now presented to the rest of the Craft. He hoped it would not be thrown away upon them, but that it might be the first of a long succession of triumphs that would illustrate the legitimate operations of this ancient order. It was true that there had been, and are, other differences in the Craft, and he was free to say he did not dread these manifestations. Discussion was a sign of vitality. But he might add, that his own opinion was not changed one iota since he was here last year, as to the management of the Craft in connection with the Canadian Lodges. It would be an easy task for him to show that every prediction he had made had been miserably but literally fulfilled. On the other hand, every arrangement he had pressed upon the management had, to the extent to which it had been attended to, averted much evil, and, if they had been adopted altogether, would probably have removed the evil altogether. For, in the interval, a great disaster to the Craft had occurred. Those Canadian Lodges, which owned allegiance to us twelve months ago, did so no longer. The old time-honored connection between the two countries had been severed for a day and for ever. (Hear, hear.) He wished to say nothing to revive old latent animosities; he would rather say—“Let bygones be bygones, let the dead past bury its dead, and let us act in the living present.” There was a wide field of work cut out for us. There was the discontent alluded to in the Canadian Lodges. They naturally felt a dissatisfaction to be governed in England. But he thought the future held out the promise of hope. With good feeling and common sense to bear upon them, there was no reason why the affairs of the Canadian Lodges should not be made the subject of a better understanding. (Cheers.) He would enumerate some of the advantages which had been secured during the past twelve months. In the first place, a Colonial Board had been established, or had, at all events, come into full play during that period. He believed its operations would be most beneficial. It was at least a guarantee to their Colonial Brethren that their efforts would

have that attention which we were bound to pay them, if we insisted on managing them here. And he would take the opportunity of bearing testimony to the conduct and personal language of the Grand Master throughout these controversies. He was bound to say that the proposals which the Grand Master had made were just in themselves, and, late though they were offered to Canada, he thought they might have been accepted. As it was, the smaller province had accepted those proposals, and was working satisfactorily. The Grand Master had resolutely repudiated all the frivolous objections that found favour in some quarters in Grand Lodge, and produced irritation in the colonies. A second reason for the success which had attended recent management was that the Grand Master had acted for himself, with a frank avowal of the error into which he had been led, expressing his regret for what had passed, and his determination to give more reasonable and liberal powers of self-administration. Another favourable change was that which had taken place in the personnel of the offices in G. L.; henceforth efficiency and practical aptitude for business would be insisted on in the appointments to offices requiring them. A further subject of congratulation and hope was, that Masons had awakened to a more serious sense of duty; they no longer seemed to think that Masonry consisted in dinnering and banqueting (hear), but they recognized now the principles which affirm that honors and dignity entail correlative responsibilities. The noble Lord then adverted to the condition of the country Lodges, maintaining that they were not effectually represented in Grand Lodge. It was a monstrous thing, that the control of the 500 Lodges of the country should be left, from the accident of their geographical situation, to the control of a small section. He would add, as a practical suggestion, likely to be attended with advantage to the country Lodges, that the votes they were entitled to give should be legally tenderable, when written upon a sheet of paper and sent by post, instead of having to be delivered in person by the officers of the G. L. It would give the country Lodges a much more real share in the central management. (Hear.) It was an advantage in now having the agenda paper prepared, and to obtain the other concession was but the necessary corollary. In other minor details, matters had certainly been placed upon a more satisfactory footing. In providing for the future, however, it must always be borne in mind, that no departure was to be sought or sanctioned from those provisions of the Constitutions which all good Masons were bound to reverence and obey. (Cheers.)

HAMPSHIRE.—At a late meeting of Lodge, No. 152, Southampton, Bro. Biggs, in returning thanks for the “Visitors,” made the following sensible observations:—“He was sorry to find so little done in behalf of that noble charity, the Masonic Benevolent Institution; if it arose from want of funds, the Brethren, as Masons, were bound to remedy the evil. And what Lodge would refuse to double their subscriptions on the very trifling sum now paid? Would not every one of them there present retire to their beds better satisfied with their evening's entertainment, if such were the case, from a conscientious feeling that while enjoying themselves they had at least done their duty to their less fortunate Brethren, and which he did not think they could say at the present time? Another subject he thought deserving their consideration was, the representation of country Lodges in Grand Lodge. The London Lodges numbered about two hundred, the remainder was made up from the country, and he should like to know how many *without* the circle of fifty miles had been represented at Grand Lodge? What Master and Wardens from the provinces could neglect their business—to say nothing of the expense—to attend as they ought, while the representation of London Lodges entailed neither sacrifice of time nor expenditure of money; and he thought that it was high time a change was effected in the system—that country Lodges should have the privilege of voting by proxy. It was nothing but right that those who contributed to the Masonic funds should have a voice in their disposal; and that could never be carried out with any degree of fairness until country Brethren could record their votes without the loss of time and expense necessarily dependent on it as was the case at the present time.” The subject of Bro. Biggs's observations was freely discussed by the Brethren, who entered fully into the importance of the suggestion.

DERBYSHIRE.—Bro. C. R. Colvill, M.P., has been appointed P. G. M. in the place of the late Duke of Devonshire.

THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES has decided that the address collars of P. G. O.'s must be edged with gold.

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF LONDON.—The following letter to our contemporary shows how completely the notion prevails (and very naturally), that G. L. is an Institution contrived for the sole benefit of the London Brethren. It is so admirable a satire on the existing state of things, that we cannot forbear extracting it:—“PROVINCIAL GRAND CLOTHING.—To the Editor of the *Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror*.—Sir and Brother,—In your last number you have published the decision of the Board

* The admirable address delivered on the occasion by the W. Bro. has been extensively published in the M. M. and the local papers of Bath.

of General Purposes respecting the collars of Provincial Grand Officers, viz., that, according to the correct reading of the Book of Constitutions, collars of garter-blue, embroidered or plain, are only allowed to be worn by present and past Grand Officers; and that the two distinctive collars of Provincial Grand Officers are, for dress, ribbon of garter-blue with edging of gold lace, and for undress, the same, with a simple gold cord. With that decision I perfectly coincide. I have made some enquiries upon the subject, and have been informed that, as a body, Provincial Grand Officers have always worn either gold lace or gold cord; and that the plain garter-blue collar has been assumed only by some Provincial Grand Officers who reside within easy access of London. The law upon the subject, at page 112 in the Book of Constitutions, is as follows:—'Deputy Provincial Grand Masters and other Provincial Grand Officers, present and past, wear collars of ribbon garter-blue, four inches broad, with narrow edging of gold lace or cord, but not bullion or fringe, or plain.' I believe that most persons would say that, according to the plain reading of that law, the decision that the Board of General Purposes arrived at is the correct one. Some Provincial Grand Officers, however, contend that the law ought to have been printed as follows:—'Deputy Provincial, &c. &c., wear collars with narrow edging of gold lace or cord, or plain, but not bullion or fringe,' placing the words 'or plain' after the word 'cord'; and that that reading gives them the privilege of wearing a plain garter-blue collar. Granted, for one moment, that their interpretation is the correct one, what is the result? That it makes that law antagonistic to all the others that relate to Masonic clothing, the tenor of which is, to keep the dress of Grand Officers as distinct as possible. I consider it as great an honour for a Provincial Mason to have attained rank in his Provincial Grand Lodge, as for a London Brother to have received the purple in the Grand Lodge; and I do hope, for the future, that we shall see all Provincial Grand Officers proud of the honour of wearing the distinctive clothing of their own Grand Lodges, instead of assuming that of the G.L. I will conclude with a few words upon a subject somewhat bearing upon this question. Many Provincial Grand Officers have complained to me that they have felt it a hardship that, when they attended the Grand Lodge, they should be obliged to wear the plain blue collars of their private Lodges. I must confess that I think, in courtesy and in justice, the law that prevents them from wearing their Provincial clothing in Grand Lodge ought to be repealed. Many of these Brethren have rendered good service to the Craft in their provinces, and had they been resident in London, would, in many instances, have received office in the Grand Lodge. Their services have, however, been recognised in the provinces, and they have received high rank from the hands of their respective Provincial Grand Masters, the representatives of the M.W.G.M. Surely, then, when they do attend Grand Lodge, it ought to be looked upon as a mark of respect to the M.W.G.M., that they should wear the clothing with which they have been invested by his representative. No difficulty would occur if the distinct clothing were always adhered to, and it would require simply an alteration in the Book of Constitutions similar to this: at page 50, after the words 'in all Masonic meetings,' in fifth line, to add 'but on occasion of their attending Grand Lodge, they will be required to sign, in virtue of their being members of it; and, at page 112, to leave out 'except in Grand Lodge, &c., as far as the words 'as members of Grand Lodge'.—I remain, Sir and Brother, Yours fraternally, A London P.M.—London, Feb. 16th, 1858."

Correspondence.

To the Editor.

Sir and Brother,—The question of privilege, raised by Bro. Beach in G.L. is deserving, in my opinion, of the greatest attention. It is not to the point, to consider whether or not the motion rejected by the presiding officer at the General Committee was or was not one which G.L. ought to entertain. The point is this and this only:—Has any inferior officer a right to prevent a motion being brought before G.L.? In certain cases—i.e., where ancient landmarks are endangered, the Book of Constitutions gives to the G.M. the power to refuse to put a motion from the chair. If he could have done it without this specific permission, the law would doubtless have been silent upon the point; but as special provision was necessary in his case, much more is it necessary in the case of one inferior officer, not appointed by G.L., but who claims (if this is to be taken as a precedent) equal power with the G.M., though the Book of Constitutions is entirely silent upon the point.

The General Committee, or Board of Masters, a select body from

which all P.M.'s and Wardens are excluded, is essentially a body for receiving information, and nothing more. Our laws are plain upon this point, and to give this close corporation, or to their chairman, the power to reject and accept what they please, is to destroy the authority of Grand Lodge, and to put a weapon into the hands of a partisan or a faction, which would be entirely subversive of our constitution.

I am, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
P. M.

To the Editor.

London, Feb. 4, 1858.

Sir and Brother,—Perhaps you may agree with me that the following circumstance cannot be too widely circulated; and if so, you may make any use of it you think proper.

At a meeting of Craft Masons, I was invited as an avowed member of 173, Mark Lodge, Newport, Isle of Wight (and held under the Grand Mark Lodge of London), by Bro. Isaacs, R.W.M., of the Arnott Lodge, No. 4, of Mark Masters, held at Bro. Seyd's, Masonic Hall, Finsbury Square, to attend their next meeting on the 28th ultimo. Accordingly, I went at seven o'clock, the time fixed, and after waiting three quarters of an hour, I heard that the R.W.M. was unavoidably prevented from being there; and at the same time it was intimated to me by Bro. Hughes and another Brother—I believe the Hou. Sec.—that from "a schism" now existing in Mark Masonry, they declined to admit me, assigning as their reason, that they held their warrant under the Grand Chapter of Scotland, and that had I presented myself at their last meeting before my Lodge, 176, joined the London Grand Mark Lodge, I should have been admitted as under the Grand Chapter of Ireland.

Upon these representations, I at once decided on giving my Brethren the full benefit of "their conscientious scruples," and left. Probably I might have been inclined to debate the matter with them, had there not been a Brother waiting to be advanced, who was exceedingly anxious to know why I, as a *Mark Mason*, could not stay with them? and well indeed might he ask the question. I was fearful that any observations might fall that might cause him to pause before he enrolled himself under such unmasonic principles.

I have the honour to be, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,
Mark Lodge, 176, Newport, Isle of Wight
GEORGE WILKINSON.

Advertisements.

PROVINCIAL MESS.

DINNER is provided at 5:30 P.M. on the day of each Quarterly Communication, at F. M. Tavern, for any Provincial Brethren who signify their intention of dining by the morning of that day.

Price, including wine, 5s., to those who subscribe for the year; 7s. 6d. for others.

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTERS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, AND THE COLONIES AND POSSESSIONS OF THE BRITISH CROWN.

Bro. The LORD LEIGH, *Grand Master*.

Bro. The EARL OF CARNARVON, *Deputy Grand Master*.

LODGES desirous of uniting under the English Constitution, and Brethren wishing to obtain New Warrants to work the Mark degree, are requested to communicate with Bro. W. L. COLLINS, the Grand Secretary, at the Office of the Grand Lodge, No. 40, Leicester Square, London.

NOTICE.

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