

REPORT OF COMMITTEE
ON
PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGES.

*To The Most Worshipful the Grand Master, and
The Grand Lodge of Ireland.*

THE Committee appointed by order of the Grand Lodge, dated 7th June, 1866, to report concerning the Masonic Provinces of Ireland, beg leave to report as follows:—

The Committee have carefully considered the subject referred to them, both as regards its general bearing on the Masonic Community, and the existing divisions of the Kingdom into Provinces. They have also inquired into the manner in which the defects of the present system might be obviated by a new arrangement.

They approve, in general, of the system of constituting Provincial Grand Lodges. They deem it conducive to the welfare of the Order, first, by giving the Grand Lodge more effectual controul over the Masonic Community in distant places, both at home and abroad; secondly, by affording means of honorably and suitably rewarding the zeal and exertions of those who have been most earnest and efficient in the service of the Order, by means of the distinctions of Masonic rank in the Provincial Grand Lodges. It is well known that the advantages which the Order occasionally derives from the aid and countenance of persons of rank and influence is frequently due to the connexion formed by such persons with the Masonic Society through the Provincial Grand Lodges; and the system has been conducive, as the Committee conceive, in no slight degree, to the power and extension of the Order in England, and the British Colonies and dependencies.

The Committee having had before them the map of Ireland, and considered the boundaries of the present Masonic provinces both geographically, and with a view to the accomodation of the Members of country Lodges, as afforded by the existing means of communication, are of opinion,