

the dark and turbid waters of the River of Death. This is the Brotherhood of man, based on a belief in the Fatherhood of God, which we as Masons teach and practise.

The Recent Amendment to the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts at its last quarterly communication, held March 8th, passed a resolution of a most extraordinary character, defining what Masonic degrees Master Masons, within its jurisdiction, had a right to receive, communicate or work. We confess we are much astonished at the action of so conservative a body as that of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts interfering with, or rather encroaching upon, the inherent right of the individual Mason. What can the Representatives in the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts possibly know, *as such*, regarding the legitimacy or illegitimacy of the different Supreme Grand Councils of the Scottish Rite, &c., at present claiming jurisdiction over the neighboring Republic of the United States? We should have thought that such a controversy had better have been left for the disputants to settle. Grand Lodges have no more power or right to interfere with the higher branches of Masonry than they have to declare for what political candidates their members shall vote. It is an assumption of power that cannot be tolerated, and if permitted to pass without protest, would result in anarchy and confusion.

Let us take an example. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts by

this recent action declares that its members, in order to receive the Scottish Rite degrees in the neighboring Republic, must do so from some body under the jurisdiction of "the Supreme Councils of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Northern and Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, of which Henry L. Palmer and Albert Pike are the M. P. Sov. Grand Commanders, respectively." Now, then, suppose the Grand Chapter of New York had been influenced by its Immediate Past Grand High Priest, the distinguished M. E. Comp. Wm. T. Woodruff, and declared that its members could only receive the Scottish Rite degrees from the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient and Accepted Rite for the *United States of America*, of which body he is third officer, Grand Minister of State, and the Scottish Rite Historian Folger is Grand Secretary General. What confusion this would cause. But the Grand Chapter of New York, the largest on this continent, might have been influenced by Ill. Bro. Woodruff if he had seen fit to do so, and its action would have been as legitimate as that of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

It seems rather curious, too, for a Grand Lodge to step out of the ranks of symbolic Masonry to fight the battles of a Scottish Rite Supreme Grand Council (the Southern), that has not "any minute of any session from May 1801 to the session of 1860, except that called a session in New Orleans in 1857," and whose Grand Commander, the learned Albert Pike, himself admits he does not know at what date he was elected to that important office. We have no desire to