

Having laid this protest before the M.W. the Grand Master of England, I am commanded, in reply, to remark that it is not easy to understand how the expression "Invasion of Territory" can be applied to a case where a person leaves the jurisdiction of the protesting Grand Lodge and entering that of another, is initiated therein. It would obviously be inconvenient and impracticable for such a course to be declared against Masonic law, as it would be clearly impossible to lay down where to draw the line. For example, supposing the person in question, instead of going to Montreal had proceeded to England, Ireland or Scotland, for a time, could it be asserted that he could not be made a Mason in those countries? There is certainly no Masonic regulation on this side of the water forbidding it.

I am further to point out that it does not in any way appear that the Montreal lodge was at all aware that their candidate had been black-balled in a Canadian lodge, as stated in your enclosure, and consequently no blame can be attached to Lodge 440 on that account.

The M. W. the Grand Master of England therefore, considering these facts, can only regret that he is unable to coincide with the view taken by the M. W. the Grand Master of Canada on the matter in question.

I remain, R. W. Sir and Brother,

Yours Fraternally,

SHADWELL H. CLERKE, Colonel,
G. S., of England.

The unsatisfactory nature of this reply did not lead to the hope that anything could be gained by further correspondence, and decisive action is evidently required to maintain the dignity and uphold the sovereign rights of this Grand Lodge. If we accept this letter as a declaration of the Masonic principles which guide the Grand Lodge of England, it is clear that they virtually deny the right of this Grand Lodge to exercise exclusive Masonic jurisdiction, within and over our own territory. The three English lodges in Montreal are not now within our jurisdiction, and whatever privileges they possessed under the terms of recognition accepted by the Grand Lodge from the Grand Lodge of England, these privileges ceased the moment the Grand Lodge of Quebec was formed, and there is now no justification for this

unwarranted violation of our territory. The Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England, in his official communication says, "that it is not easy to understand how the expression 'Invasion of territory' can be applied to a case where a person leaves the jurisdiction of the protesting Grand Lodge and entering that of another is initiated therein." I cannot see any difficulty in understanding that the term "Invasion of territory" is correctly applied to a case where members of a lodge subordinate to the Grand Lodge of England, make an attack on the rights of another Grand Lodge by entering its territory and securing the rejected material of one of its lodges, take the person thus willingly captured within the territory of another Grand Lodge and there make him a Mason. Not only is this an invasion of the territory of Grand Lodge, but it is also an injustice to the Grand Lodge of Quebec, in making use of its territory to inflict an injury upon a Grand Lodge with which it is on terms of peace and harmony. If this Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodges of British America and the United States, allow the doctrine as laid down by the Grand Secretary of England to pass unchallenged, then it may be questioned whether the Masonic Grand Lodges on this continent do possess the powers, rights and prerogatives which heretofore they supposed they enjoyed. Brethren of Grand Lodge, are you prepared to allow residents of this Province to be made Masons outside of your jurisdiction without your consent? I trust not. When this matter was brought under my notice I proposed dealing with it at once, but after further consideration decided to leave to the Grand Lodge the settlement of so important a subject. I may say, however, that I am of opinion that there will be no permanent peace or harmony in Masonry in Canada until all lodges now holding Warrants from the Grand Lodges of Great Britain have given their allegiance to the Grand