

in the political change, rendered the Province of Quebec, in one sense unoccupied (Masonically) territory, although the Grand Lodge of Canada claimed jurisdiction over it, excepting those lodges that had elected to remain under the obedience of the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland.

Our Quebec brethren in 1869, following the example of the Canadian brethren in 1855, formed the present Grand Lodge of Quebec, claiming jurisdiction over the then and now Province of Quebec; but, distinctly bear in mind, that she assumed none of their (Canada) liabilities, trades or agreements, or was in any way heirs-at-law, of the Grand Lodge of Canada, being formed from territory that was in no way dependent upon, or rendering allegiance, politically or otherwise, to the Grand Lodge of Canada or the Province of Ontario.

The Grand Lodge of Canada refused her recognition, and then followed a long, bitter contest, until 1874, when matters were brought to a peaceful termination, and the Grand Lodge of Canada recognized the Grand Lodge of Quebec as a legal Grand Lodge, and instructed her subordinate lodges within the Province of Quebec to render allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and from that time until the present time, there has been nothing to disturb the harmony existing between the two Grand Lodges.

After the difficulty with the Grand Lodge of Canada had terminated, the Grand Lodge of Quebec, in 1875, again sought recognition from the Grand Lodge of England. The Grand Lodge of England assented to such recognition on the same terms accorded to and accepted by the Grand Lodge of Canada. This proposition the Grand Lodge of Quebec declined to accept, and recognition was not granted.

From the formation of the Grand Lodge of Quebec until the present day, our Quebec brethren have left no stone unturned to bring about a

peaceful solution of the vexed question. She has pleaded, coaxed, and done everything that could be done, but of no avail.

At the session of the Grand Lodge of Québec, January 30 and 31, 1884, the Grand Master was positively instructed to once more appeal to the Grand Lodge of England to recall the charters of those three lodges, and in case she refused, after due notification, to issue an edict of non-intercourse against those three lodges. The appeal and notification was duly and courteously made; the Grand Lodge of England peremptorily declined to withdraw from the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and on January 1, 1885, the Grand Master, in obedience to the commands of the Grand Lodge, issued his edict, severing intercourse with these malcontent lodges, and at the annual session of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, held January 28 and 29, 1885, the acts of the Grand Master were fully endorsed, and he was re-elected as Grand Master.

The question involved in the controversy is one that directly concerns every American Grand Lodge, and we are now called upon to decide whether the Grand Bodies of Quebec shall or shall not have exclusive jurisdiction within their own territorial limits?

The Grand Lodges of the United States have fully endorsed the dogma of exclusive Grand Lodge Sovereignty, as well as the question, as to the illegality of lodges that refuse to render allegiance to the Grand Lodges in whose territory they may exist, as in the case of New Mexico vs. Missouri. We are now asked to accord the same position to our sister Grand Lodge of Quebec, as we maintain within our own Grand Lodges.

For one, I say, grant her that position; allow her to be the supreme authority within her own jurisdiction, exhaust every known peaceful measure first, and then if these fail, let her assert her rights with those that defy her authority.