

G. M. OF ENGLAND.

Shortly after the arrival at Washington, of the M. W. Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, as President of the Joint High Commission, I directed the Grand Secretary to forward an official communication to our noble and Most Worshipful Brother, expressing our highest fraternal regards, congratulating him upon his important appointment, — praying that the best results to the nations involved, and to the entire world, might flow from the labors of the Commission, and begging his acceptance of a banquet in his honor in the city of Montreal, under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

A most courteous reply was received thereto, intimating that circumstances might hasten his departure from Washington to England, immediately after the close of the labors of the Commission, so that he might be unable to visit the Dominion or accept our kind invitation.

"GRAND LODGE OF CANADA."

Although compassion dictates the exercise of the virtue of silence anent the doings for the past year, of the Grand Lodge of "Canada," yet candor compels me to say that most of the evils which have afflicted the craft in these *two* provinces during the past twenty-two months have been almost wholly due to her unfraternal course. However, in view of all the circumstances, the Grand Lodge of Quebec could well afford magnanimously to practise charity which suffereth long; and to trust in the Great Architect of the Universe so to order his good Providences that the day might not soon, if ever dawn, on which, forbearance on our part would cease to be a virtue.

Fidelity to the principles of Freemasonry on which our action was based in forming this Grand Body, duty to the numerous Grand Lodges which have already recognized us,—and the maintainance of the doctrine of exclusive Grand Lodge jurisdiction would soon *unless averted*, demand of us the vindication at all hazards, of our right and title to undivided supremacy within the Province of Quebec.

And few of you will be surprised to learn that the principal officers of some of the most influential Grand Lodges which have recognized the Grand Lodge of Quebec, have been seriously considering whether the Grand Lodge of "Canada" was longer entitled to fraternal recognition and support, in view of her repeated, unconstitutional invasions of the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge by the establishment of private Lodges therein. Many Grand Lodges of the United States have withdrawn fraternal fellowship from the Grand Orient of France, for a like invasion, only to a much lesser extent, of the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. I need hardly assure you, my brethren, that I have used my best endeavors to have any such action anent the Grand Lodge of "Canada" deferred a little longer at least (for with all her faults we love her still) in the hope and belief that ere long she would retrace her footsteps from the verge of the precipice to which she seemed inevitably to be drawing near.

Nor have our expectations been wholly vain. The dawns of the spirit of conciliation seem to be appearing in that Grand East. Our repeated overtures to secure peace, harmony, and the constitutional adjustment of all existing difficulties, although repeatedly spurned, have, nevertheless, borne some fruit, and there now seems reason to hope that at a very early day, all discordant circumstances will have passed away, and that the Grand Lodge of "Canada" will be constitutionally re-constructed into the Grand Lodge of Ontario, and divine peace bear sway masonically over these two Provinces, between which alone should exist that generous rivalry which can best work and best agree.

PUBLIC DIVINE SERVICE.

The members of the Grand Lodge will be pleased to learn that it has been arranged to continue the goodly custom inaugurated at our first annual communication, of having public Divine service during our present meeting, and that our Rev. Brother, the Grand Chaplain, will deliver an appropriate discourse on the occasion. It well becomes the G. L. of Quebec publicly to offer devout thanksgiving to Almighty God for His many and great favors vouchsafed to us during the past year.

TEMPERANCE.

A Freemason is under peculiar obligations to practice this cardinal virtue in its most comprehensive significance. The novitiate is carefully taught to exercise due restraint over all his appetites and passions, and to pursue such a prudent and well-regulated course of discipline as may best conduce to the preservation of his corporeal and mental faculties in their fullest energies, thereby enabling him to exercise those talents wherewith God hath blessed him, as well for his glory as for the welfare of his fellow creatures.