

may lessen the territorial jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge, but that political action may actually extinguish a Grand Lodge. This view of the case is one that we are quite sure, has not had full weight with those American Grand Lodges which have been so hasty in their recognition of the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec. There is no instance on record of a Grand Lodge being wiped out of existence by the action of the Legislature of the country. Those of our readers who were present at the special Communication of Grand Lodge in Montreal in December last, will remember the position taken by M. W. Bro. Harington on this point. Claiming that the Province of Quebec was masonically occupied territory, he told Grand Lodge that if recognition was extended to the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, he would at once return home and getting three lodges to join him, would form a Grand Lodge of Ontario. He was right as to the effect of recognition. Brethren in Ontario had quite as good a right to form a Grand Lodge for this Province, as had brethren from Quebec to form one there. As a matter of fact the Grand Master, who, during recess is the representative of the Grand Lodge, resided in Quebec when the secession took place; and that, therefore, must be held to determine the *locale* of Grand Lodge itself. What, therefore, Grand Lodge was wished to do was to declare that it had no longer an existence, to commit suicide, to admit that since the first of July 1867 it had been exercising all the functions of a living body while being in fact and in law dead. That was one, and a leading reason, why, in the very nature of things, the Grand Lodge of Quebec could not be recognized by the Grand Lodge of Canada.

Then there was another reason, scarcely less powerful. The lodges in the province of Quebec, holding charters from the Grand Lodge of Canada, were not unanimous in withdrawing from their allegiance to it. As a matter of fact about one-half of the Lodges were betrayed into the mistake of following the fortunes of the St. Francis' leader. Eighteen Lodges retained their allegiance and were represented at the meeting of Grand Lodge. Upwards of fifty representatives from the Province of Quebec, testified to the loyal feeling pervading a large portion of the brethren of the Province. They were in Grand Lodge to claim that its protection should not be withdrawn from them, and that the rights guaranteed to them when their warrants were granted should be continued. It is quite true that in the resolution moved by M. W. Bro. Wilson, as an amendment to the third resolution of the Board of General Purposes, it was stipulated that the loyal lodges should be guaranteed all their rights as masons owing allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Canada; but it was a curious fact that our M. W. Brother did not venture to say to Grand Lodge that he was authorized to make any such exception. Indeed the position taken by the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec thus far, has been entirely opposed to the recognition