

Grand Lodges organized in that city. Look at Italy, Portugal, Spain. Does any such idea prevail there, even today? The facts were that it was thought that any number of Lodges, not less than three, had the prescriptive right to organize themselves into a Grand Body, and that it was not inconsistent for several Grand Bodies to share a given territory together and each be legitimate.

We conclude this part of our subject with the observation that no one can read the history of Masonry in Europe and America up to 1776 and assent to any such doctrine of "unity."

The exclusive jurisdiction of one Grand Lodge in a given territory is purely American, and like all other American ideas, the propagators of them insist upon their infallibility and try to ram them down everybody's throat, if they will not swallow them willingly. Hence the continual jarring and warring against the acts of our European Grand and Subordinate Lodges and any departure by one of our own Grand Lodges.

When Bro. Gouley and his Grand Lodge, Bro. Parvin and Iowa, and more recently the Grand Lodge of Idaho, each had a tilt at Scotland for making Masons of young medical students from their several States, we cautioned them that they would get their fingers burned, and they did. Bro. Gouley, who never let go any ideas of his before, had to confess that as to Scotland he must succumb. Bro. Parvin and the others had to do likewise.

For our own part we shall, as an American Mason, and for the best of all reasons, maintain American ideas and insist that *here* they must prevail. Yet we cannot insist on their falling into our notions who have been educated quite differently.

We will not stop to take up a regular series of Grand Lodge formations in the United States since Massachusetts, North Carolina and Virginia instituted their Grand Lodges

in the years of the Revolutionary War. But every one familiar with the facts must know that in neither of the colonies were all the Lodges united in the formation of these Grand Lodges. From the date of Independence to the present time scarcely a Grand Lodge has been formed where every Lodge within the territory has united at the first convention in forming a Grand Lodge.

This closes our remarks upon the history of the matter.

Let us now reason together as to the philosophy of the subject. The better to understand the matter we will take an example.

In a given, so-called, unoccupied territory, there may be twelve or more Lodges, holding charters from twelve Grand Lodges, many of them at a great distance from the Mother Grand Lodge.

In the city of San Francisco, for instance, this was the actual state of things, as well as all over California. No. 1, now of that State, was No. 13 of the District of Columbia. Star of the West held her charter from Missouri. The want of unanimity in any measure within the State soon convinced Masons in California that they should all be under one obedience. It is suggested first by one Lodge that a convention should be held of proper representatives of all the Lodges and organize a Grand Lodge. Three or more Lodges thus represented do enter into such compact and choose their officers, make a constitution and send out to the Masonic world that they have thus formed the *nucleus* around which shall crystallize all the proper Masonic elements in that jurisdiction. Now we hold that the formation of a Grand Lodge, the crystallization of organic Masonry for that jurisdiction is an *accomplished fact*. No power on earth can prevent that body thus formed from performing all the functions all the other Grand Lodges in the world can perform. That Grand Lodge Masonically has the same *inherent* right enjoyed by