

who inspired the telegram to which I refer not only violated one of the first principles of our order, but exhibited an animus to the Grand Lodge of New South Wales which is not participated in by a large majority of the Freemasons in this territory owing allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England. You are all aware that for a number of years the formation of a Grand Lodge of New South Wales has engaged the attention of a large number of brethren in this province, but no active steps were taken to promote this object until a number of the oldest and most energetic members of the craft, according to the masonic custom adopted upon such occasions formed themselves into a Masonic Union on July 5, 1877, and subsequently sent a circular to every masonic lodge in the colony, asking it to discuss the question and appoint a delegate to represent its lodge at the meetings of the union. In reply to this communication thirteen lodges appointed delegates, and assurances of support were received from several other lodges, and a large number of brethren of the three constitutions. At the same time, the union, as an act of courtesy, informed the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland of their movement, and not receiving any reply from these bodies, called a meeting of the convention on December 3, 1877, and elected the first grand master and grand lodge officers, who were duly installed by R. W. Bro. Manning, a Past District Deputy Grand Master under the English Constitution and Past-Provincial Grand Master under the Scotch Constitution. The Grand Lodge of New South Wales, having been thus constitutionally formed according to the custom of all grand lodges except the Grand Lodge of England, the illegality of whose constitution I shall refer to immediately, the Grand Master caused letters and a manifesto to be forwarded to all the known grand lodges in the world, together with a copy of the

proceedings of the convention, fraternally requesting recognition of the new grand lodge. To these, replies have been received from time to time, and at the present moment we are recognized as a grand lodge by thirty-eight grand lodges, being more than half of the grand Lodges in existence. A most notable fact about the recognitions is that the first one extended to us was from a grand lodge which included within its ranks that eminent jurist, Dr. Mackay, author of the "Lexicon of Freemasonry," and other standard masonic works, who, after thoroughly investigating the legality of the course pursued in establishing the Grand Lodge of New South Wales, warmly advocated its recognition, and consented to act as its representative in his own grand lodge. I must now claim your attention for a few moments to refer to the establishment of the Grand Lodge of England, and I do not think the contrast will bear favorable comparison with the steps taken to form a grand lodge in this territory. According to Masonic jurisprudence a grand lodge can be established in any territory where no grand lodge exists; but the Grand Lodge of England, as first established in London, violated this law as its grand lodge was formed by four London lodges that seceded from the Grand Lodge of York, which was established in the year 926, having under its jurisdiction thirty-two lodges. Notwithstanding that there was a Grand Lodge of England, we find that the masonic body in London, then numbering only four lodges, formed themselves into a grand lodge so recently as the year 1717, and from it was instituted the present United Grand Lodge of England. And this, forsooth, is the body which refuses to recognize a grand lodge originally formed by 18 lodges, which has now on its roll 44 subordinate lodges containing some 8000 Masons, and recognized by 38 grand lodges, many of them having double the number of Freemasons under their jurisdiction.