

the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and having solemnly ratified and adopted all acts and proceedings had at its organization, it is now fitting and desirable, and in accordance with the general customs of the craft under similar circumstances, that this Grand Lodge declare its sovereign independence, and its right to undivided supremacy, and exclusive Masonic jurisdiction within the Province of Quebec.

MANITOBA.

In this Province, recently admitted into the Dominion of Canada, there may be new lodges formed by the Grand Lodge of Quebec, or by the Grand Lodge of any other Province in the Dominion, or by the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, or Ireland. Indeed, new lodges may be opened therein by any regular Grand Lodge throughout the world; but international Masonic courtesy has in practice limited the granting of dispensations for new lodges in "unoccupied territory" to the Grand Lodges of those countries with which the newly formed Province, Territory or State is more directly allied politically. And should a petition be made to this Grand Lodge therefor, the Grand Master could have no hesitation in granting a dispensation for a new lodge in the goodly Province of Manitoba, or in the recently acquired Territory of Hudson Bay; or in the Colonies of Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, or in other colonies as soon as they may be admitted as Provinces into this Dominion. And this Grand Lodge would retain jurisdiction over these private lodges so formed until each Province shall have formed a Grand Lodge of its own, when the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge over these private lodges would immediately cease; and this Grand Body would bid its offspring God speed under the fostering care and jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of its own domain.

FRENCH LODGES.

Several communications have been received by me from brethren in different parts of the Province, enquiring whether I would grant dispensations to form new lodges whose work would be done in the French language. As it is so well said in our ancient constitutions, — "Freemasons are of all nations, tongues, kindreds and languages," and following the example of several illustrious Grand Masters, I could personally have no hesitation in granting the dispensations prayed for; but as the subject is of such great and far-reaching importance, I decided to submit the whole question to the Grand Lodge; and as, among other things, the full consideration of the matter requires allusion to the *lex non scripta* of Freemasonry, I will endeavor to lay this peculiarly interesting and important subject more fully before you during the present communication.

WAR AND RELIEF.

While our own, and many other lands are happily enjoying the benign blessings of peace, it is a source of deep sorrow that two of the great nations of Europe, with whom we are intimately connected by the ties of lineage and fraternity, are suffering from the terrible scourge of war, masonry has ever flourished in times of peace, and has always been injured by war, bloodshed and confusion. Craftsmen are bound by peculiar ties to promote peace, cultivate harmony, and live in concord and brotherly love. And while many of our leading brethren of these nations, (with whom the fraternal communication of this Grand Lodge, till within a short time, has been unbroken) are unavoidably involved in this conflict, we are sure, that while they may not be able wholly to prevent, they will do all in their power, to avert or assuage its horrors, and after doing what is necessary, to relieve the wants of the needy and deserving at home. I am sure that this Grand Lodge will cheerfully follow the noble example of the Grand Lodge of England in contributing according to its ability "to aid the sick and wounded in the present war."

DONATIONS RECEIVED.

The liberal donations made by individual brethren whose names are well known to you, and also by lodges in addition to their regular fees, abundantly testify their zeal for the Order, and their affection for this Grand Lodge; and they deserve, and no doubt will receive, an expression of your hearty thanks.

MASONIC TEMPLE.

The unity and prosperity that are now dawning upon the Craft in this province, betoken, at no distant day, the inauguration of measures for the erection of a Masonic Temple in this city, which will be worthy of the metropolis of the Dominion and of this Grand Lodge; and to any one acquainted with the spirit and purposes of the Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, it needs no prophetic tongue to foretell, that