

principal members of the G. C. of Canada received the Mark degree in one of these T. I. lodges.

These lodges could not, in our view of Masonic law and tradition, be lawfully compelled to apply for warrants of confirmation to the G. C. of Quebec, for two reasons—1st, that they had no desire to join that new organization; and 2nd, that they are advised by the highest legal authority, that the said organization is illegal according to the civil law of the State, and that its members can only meet under risk of criminal prosecution. This view is confirmed by the fact that the G. C. of Quebec, in the last session of the Dominion Parliament, attempted to obtain a legal status, but failed to do so.

3. At the present moment, therefore, the Mark Lodges meeting under the warrants of confirmation of this G. L. are the only legal assemblies of Mark Masters in the Province of Quebec. (See Hon. Judge Badgley's letter to the M. W. G. M. M. M., at p. 61 of Proceedings of G. L. of M. M. M., June, 1884.)

4. I cannot but express my surprise that the G. C.'s of the United States should have so far overlooked one of the fundamental landmarks of Masonry, as to attempt to oblige English Mark Masters to join a so-called Masonic body, meeting in defiance of the laws of the State in which it finds itself.

5. Whenever a legal body working the Mark degree is established in the Province of Quebec, it will be open to it to make advances for union to the three T. I. lodges holding warrants of confirmation from this G. L., and to this course we shall offer no objection whatever; but, on the contrary, we should be exceedingly glad to see such a union voluntarily effected, and would promote it by any legitimate means in our power.

Meanwhile, in order to meet, as far as possible, the views of the United States, and in the hope that a satisfactory arrangement may be made between the three T. I. English Mark Lodges in Quebec, and a lawful G. C., we have restricted the action of the English Mark Lodges in Quebec to English Master Masons. We shall exceedingly regret it, if we are driven from this conciliatory position by the hostile action of the G. C.'s of the United States.

6. These facts we beg to commend to the fraternal consideration of your G. C.

FREDERICK BINCKES, P. G. J. W.,  
Grand Secretary.

To the M. E. Grand H. P., G. R. A. Chapter of—

In reviewing this singular document,

we are (1) particularly struck with the assertion "that this Grand Lodge claims no territorial or other jurisdiction whatever in the United States or within the district *claimed* by the G. C. of Canada." The minds of our American companions must truly be greatly relieved at this gratuitous information, that this unrecognized Masonic body (as far as the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of England are concerned), claims "no territorial or other jurisdiction," &c., over them. But as a Canadian Royal Arch Mason, may we ask what the Grand Mark Lodge of England means by "within the district *claimed* by the G. C. of Canada?" Does it mean to insinuate that that claim is questionable, or ever can be questioned?

(2) The "time immemorial" theory, if once admitted, would give this very modern Grand Body power to rake up Mark Lodges all over the face of the earth.

(3) What can it mean when it asserts: "At the present moment, therefore, the Mark Lodges meeting under the warrants of confirmation of this G. L. are the only legal assemblies of Mark Masters in the Province of Quebec?" Yet this Grand Body accepted recognition from the Grand Chapter of Quebec and exchanged Grand Representatives with it! Comment is unnecessary.

(4) As to Bro. Binckes' "surprise" that "the Grand Chapters of the United States should have overlooked a *fundamental principle*," we would reply that if the Grand Chapter of Quebec is illegal, the Supreme Grand Council, A. & A. S. R., 39°, is illegal also; yet the S. G. C. A. & A. S. R.