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## QUEBEC vs. ENGLAND.

BY FRANK W. BAXTER.

Is the Grand Lodge of M. M. M. of England, etc., justified in the course that she has pursued towards the Grand Chapter of Quebec?

The above question is one that is deeply agitating the Masonic world at the present time, and "on this side of the water," the answer, by a great majority, is that she is not. In other words, that a very large majority of the R. A. M. in the United States claim that the conduct of the Grand Lodge of M. M. M. of England, etc., in this affair, is unjustifiable, illegal, and uncalled for.

In attempting to substantiate that statement, I propose to deal with the facts as I find them to be; but, in so doing, I am well aware that I shall incur the wrath of our English brothers, both in England, Canada, and Quebec, besides a very few of my brothers in the United States. Not standing in fear of their wrath, being a plain, unsophisticated Yankee, "home-spun" at that, I will endeavor to state wherein the Grand Lodge of M. M. M. of England has violated both Masonic law, justice and honor; plain words, yet true ones.

If I make a contract with another person, and that contract is not procured by fraud or misrepresentation, I am both legally and morally bound to fulfil my part of the contract, as

far as it lies in my power. If I fail, the party with whom I made my contract has his redress, and can by law compel me to fulfil it.

Such is acknowledged law; without such a law, contracts of any kind would be mere words, not amounting to as much as the paper that they were written on.

A contract can only be broken by the mutual consent of all the parties connected with it. If a contract, a solemn compact, can be broken at will, then I ask, of what utility is a contract, a written bond, or a pledged word? None whatever.

Now, was there a contract, a written agreement, or a pledged word, existing between the Grand Lodge of M. M. M. of England, and the Grand Chapter of Quebec? I claim that there was, and in due time will state wherein. Our English brothers claim that there was none, and many go as far as to state that even if there was they had the right to break it at will, and did break it, by forming Mark Lodges, establishing a Prov. Grand Lodge, and appointing a Prov. G. M. to preside over the same, within the recognized jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Quebec.

They present but one reason for their conduct, which is that there were three Master Mason Lodges in