

which in turn became the progenitor of other Grand Lodges, must the Masons of all other lands that decline to bow the knee to the same system of government be placed under the ban of Masonic excommunication? The Grand Lodge of England to-day refuses to admit the principle of undivided Grand Lodge sovereignty within the limits of territorial jurisdiction. Yet it is still favoured with the fraternal recognition of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The Grand Orient of Italy is not, we believe, similarly favoured. But it interchanges representation with thirteen European Grand Bodies, several of which, if we are correctly informed, are fraternally recognized by American Grand Lodges. Shall this recognition be cancelled because, of the 140 subordinate Lodges in Italy, 119 work in the so-called Scottish Rite, and 21 in the Symbolic Rite?

The Masonry of the British Isles, according to Bro. Robbins, is the only source of the pure and unadulterated article. Yet the Masonry of England to-day is not only on terms of fraternal relationship with the Grand Lodge of Sweden, that recognizes, or but a short time ago did recognize and authorize the conferring of no less than ten Degrees, but its present Grand Master, the Prince of Wales, was made a Mason in Sweden, and the honorary title of Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England was, in 1888, conferred upon King Oscar II.

It is of considerable importance to us that the position we assume in this matter should not be misunderstood. We have long ago uttered no uncertain sound when the question of Grand Lodge Sovereignty and the obedience due thereto, in jurisdictions wherein it has been legally established, has been at stake. In its defence, and in our fidelity thereto, we yield in enthusiasm to nobody, not even to Bro. Vaux. But the universality of Freemasonry is an older landmark than the principle of Grand Lodge Sovereignty, and our loyalty to the latter will never require that we should treat as spurious all the Masonry of those countries that have never set up our own system of Masonic government. We have the most profound esteem for Bro. Vaux, and the utmost respect for those who think with him. But if we consent to the Masonic ostracism of all our Brethren in foreign lands, who have never bowed the knee to that particular form of Masonic rule that was inaugurated but a century and three-quarters ago, what security have we that in the centuries

that
the p
them
same
nation

has a
Bro.
devot
regret
Broth
the Bi

T
is one
authorit
never be
masons
denies it
of the C
Freemas
tion of c
body.

In
Illinois to
the Grand
it may be
courage to

Qu
ing extr

Gran
England a
Masons, in
it? Well
petitioners
sovereignty
correspond
Shadwell I

Gran
this matter