

jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, should be and remain "occupied" by "unoccupied territory." Was it perhaps because the Grand Master happened to reside in Ontario? If so, the "occupancy" would be liable to change, and in the present instance, where the Grand Master resides in Quebec, that Province would be the "occupied" and Ontario the "unoccupied territory." This point was ably commented upon by R.P.S. in the *CRAFTSMAN* January 1868, and by "Cosmopolite" in the *Quebec Chronicle*. And the editors of the *CRAFTSMAN*, April 1869, regarding that theory, say, that the confederation scheme has made *no change* of political boundary as between Upper and Lower Canada, and that it can in *no way* affect the Masonic rights or territorial jurisdiction of the G.L. of Canada.

Here then we have at least *three* different views regarding the effect of the Confederation Act upon the status and position of the Grand Lodge of Canada. First, G. M. Simpson and G. M. Wilson assert that the Confederation Act *extends* the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada, is as much that we may now establish lodges in Nova Scotia; while at the same time G. M. Wilson conceded to the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, the right to establish lodges in Ontario, Quebec, hence granting that G.L. concurrent jurisdiction. Second, Dr. Mackey declares that said Act *decreases* the limits of that jurisdiction, in as much that while formerly Upper Canada and Lower Canada were under that jurisdiction, the Confederation Act confines the same to Upper Canada (or, as it now is named, Ontario) alone; and he declares Lower Canada (or Quebec, as it now is named) unoccupied territory. And third, the *CRAFTSMAN* holding that the Confederation Act *in no way* affects the Masonic rights or territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada; hence in a measure declaring Simpson, Wilson, and Mackey to be wrong; for if it in *no way* affects the rights or territorial jurisdiction, then the G.L. of Canada has no right to establish lodges in Nova Scotia, nor the G. L. of Nova Scotia any in Ontario or Quebec.

Matters thus remained in statu quo until July, 1868, when Grand Lodge assembled at London. At that communication, G. M. Wilson, in his carefully drawn address, says that the subject of a General Grand Lodge for our new Dominion has not been overlooked by him, although no special action has been taken in the matter; that the solution of this great question must be left to time, and to the calm consideration of the craft generally; that any exhibition, on our part, of too great a desire to secure this result, would, in all probability, only delay, if not entirely defeat, that union of the whole masonic body in the British dependencies here, which so many are so anxious to secure.

The further discussion on the subject of separation, as postponed by resolution of Grand Lodge in July, 1867, was anxiously looked for by a large number of brethren assembled at London in July, 1868; but, strange as it may appear, the very first attempt to open that discussion was interdicted or ruled out of order,—it was even held that any discussion relating to the dismemberment of the Grand Lodge was treason. By what process of reasoning it was held that a discussion on the subject of separation, which of course is dismemberment, would be treason in 1868, while in 1867 the R. W. Bro. Graham's powerful, if not even vehement, speech in favor of separation, by establishing a Grand Lodge for Quebec, was considered to be in order and never