

good Brethren in England and elsewhere, to be a duty now devolving upon me, unofficially of course,—to “restate” from our stand-point, the case of “Quebec vs. England” *in re*. Hence, with your kind consent, I shall endeavor concisely so to do, with the desire not only to promote, if possible, an early adjustment of existing differences, but also, it may be, to aid somewhat in bringing about such an “understanding” as may perchance prevent the recurrence of such and such like unseemly and unfraternal antagonisms between the Mother Grand Lodge of the United Kingdom, and the Craft, in all the “self-governing” Colonies and other Dependencies of the British Empire, wherein Grand Lodges have been, or may be formed.

By the Imperial “British North America Act,” proclaimed July 1, 1867, the then “Province of Canada” was severed into two separate and distinct Provinces called the “Province of Ontario” (formerly Upper Canada or Canada West), and the “Province of Quebec” (formerly Lower Canada or Canada East); and by the same Act, these two Provinces, together with the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, were joined into a Federal Union which was declared “to form and to be” the Dominion of Canada.

In October, 1869, upwards of two years after Confederation, the Grand Lodge of the Province of Quebec, was formed; and in consequence, the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of “Canada” (established in 1855, and now in its own Book of Constitution denominated “the

Grand Lodge of Canada, in the Province of Ontario”), became restricted to that Province. (It may be well here to remark that *Masonic Provinces* in Great Britain should not be confounded with *Political Provinces* in the Dominion of Canada.)

The right and duty of the Craft in the Province of Quebec to establish an Independent Grand Lodge in and for the said Province, and the regularity of their procedure *in re*, have been generally conceded, and hence the Grand Lodge of Quebec enjoys the most fraternal intercourse with all the other (6) Grand Lodges of the Dominion of Canada,—with all the Grand Lodges of the United States of America (now the great Masonic power of the world),—with the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and with several of the regular Grand Lodges of the continent of Europe and other countries,—having thus received from nearly every one of the Grand Lodges of the Masonic world due and unconditional recognition as a regularly constituted Grand Lodge justly entitled to have and to exercise exclusive sovereign jurisdiction within this Province of the Dominion.

Grand Representatives have also been interchanged with these Grand Bodies, and our relations to all the Grand Lodges of the world are most satisfactory and harmonious, with the unhappy and much to be deplored exception of the Mother Grand Lodge of England; and what may be termed “neutrality” with the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Richmond, Quebec,
Canada, May 1, 1888.]