

## EXCLUSIVE GRAND LODGE SOVEREIGNTY.

The doctrine is called the "American Law;" in fact it was originated by the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland when Masonry was first planted in America. They established Provincial Grand Lodges with exclusive territorial jurisdiction. In 1762, the Masons of St. John's Provincial Grand Lodge objected to the formation of St. Andrew's Lodge by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, on the ground that it was an infringement of the jurisdiction of Jeremy Gridley, Provincial Grand Master under the Grand Lodge of England. In reply to this, the Grand Master of Scotland said:

"I do not doubt nor dispute his authority as Grand Master of all the Lodges in North America, who acknowledge the authority and hold of the Grand Lodge of England, and he certainly has a warrant and commission from the Grand Master of England to that effect. The Grand Master and Grand Lodge of Scotland have also granted a warrant and commission to our R. W. Bro. Col. John Young, Esq., constituting and appointing him Provincial Grand Master of all the Lodges in North America who acknowledge the authority and hold of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. These commissions, when rightly understood, can never clash or interfere with each other."

We have not space to discuss our proposition further. We have examined the history, and elsewhere stated the facts bearing upon it, showing that the doctrine of territorial jurisdiction originated in England and came to this country when Masonry came.—*P. G. M. Drummond of Maine.*

## OUR MODERN HOSPITALERS.

It has been chronicled in the newspapers that, during the month of August, the Emperor of Germany officially assumed the Grand Protectorate of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, popularly but erroneously known as those of Malta, a dignity hereditary in the kings of Prussia since 1812. In common with all the monk-knighted orders, constituted during the period of the Crusades, the latter-day history of the Knights of St. John is considerably mixed up. Never-

theless, it is tolerably clear that his Prussian Majesty bases his claim to the grand protectorate from the revolt of the Commandery of Brandenburg, in 1832, against the rule of the Grand Prior of Germany in the Teutonic Order.

By the peace of Pressburg, in 1805, the Grand Priory of Germany was abolished, and the Emperor of Austria invested with the Grand Mastership of the Order. In 1809 Napoleon suppressed the Order in various parts of Germany, but, on June 28, 1840, it was revived under the hereditary protectorship of the Austrian monarch, as a Catholic institution. The Brandenburg Commandery defended the cause of the Reformation, the Elector assuming a title of *Summus Patronus Protector* *Ordinis*. In 1775 a union with the Knights of Malta was proposed and rejected, the Maltese declining to sanction religious toleration. In 1810 the Commandery was disestablished, and in 1812 Frederick William III. founded the Prussian Order of St. John, of which the king is protector and sole dispenser, it being a thoroughly Lutheran establishment. In 1852 the Commandery of Brandenburg was re-established by Frederick William IV., the funds being devoted to the maintenance of hospitals.—*N. Y. Masonic Chronicle.*

## VOUCHING.

To Masons, this is a word of great importance. Craftsmen cannot be too careful in regard to it, in these days of imposters and frauds who are posing as Masons. What is lawful information, and how far is a brother to exercise his right to assist a brother in gaining admission to a lodge? Our answer is, he should know from personal *identification* that the party vouched for is a Freemason, and this is the conclusion of the whole matter. What is known by "personal identification?" says the Craftsman. Our reply to this question is, if I sat in a Lodge with a brother, I can vouch for him without hesitation. If a brother, with whom I have sat in a lodge brings a stranger to me and vouches for him, I may or may not vouch for the latter. I am aware that it is generally accepted that one Mason can introduce a stranger to another and vouch for him as a Craftsman, but I demur at its being obligatory upon the brother so informed to accept such information, and I believe it would