

# THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN,

AND

MASONIC RECORD.

J. H. TRATES, P.D.D.G.M.,  
Editor & Proprietor.

"The Queen and the Craft."

(\$1.50 per annum  
in advance.)

Vol. XIX.

PORT HOPE, ONT., JUNE 15, 1885.

No. 6.

## QUEBEC VS. ENGLAND.

BY BRO. FRANK W. BAXTER.

The readers of THE CRAFTSMAN are probably aware that not long since an edict was issued by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, severing intercourse with St. Paul, St. George, and St. Lawrence Lodges, English Registry, located in the City of Montreal, Province of Quebec, and "all lodges holding allegiance to any foreign Grand Lodge, to be Masonically, irregularly, and illegally existing in this province."

The above named lodges, although located in the City of Montreal, in the Province of Quebec, have, since the formation of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, persistently refused to render allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and have as persistently refused to listen to any overtures that tend toward accomplishing that end.

The causes that called for the promulgation of that edict may not be fully understood, and as the subject is one that directly concerns us all, I will give a brief resume of the affair.

Previous to 1855, Masonry in British North America was under the control of the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland, in the form of Provincial Grand Lodges.

In 1855, our Canadian brethren, seeing the necessity of a Grand Lodge of their own, independent of that of England, Scotland or Ireland, met and formed the Grand Lodge of Canada. After its organization as an independent Grand

Lodge, they applied to the Grand Lodges of the world for recognition, as an independent Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge of Ireland so recognized them in 1856, and Scotland in 1859; but the Grand Lodge of England refused to so recognize them until 1863, and then conditionally, which condition was that all lodges that so elected, should remain under the jurisdiction of their mother Grand Lodges. The Grand Lodge of Canada accepted those terms, and a number of lodges, amongst whom were the three mentioned above, elected to remain under the control of their mother Grand Lodge.

Previous to 1867, the whole country was known as Upper and Lower Canada, or Canada West and Canada East; but the British North American Act, which went into effect July 1, 1867, brought about a complete revolution in political affairs, and what was then designated as Upper Canada or Canada West, became the Province of Ontario, and Lower Canada or Canada East, became the Province of Quebec, with separate Provinces of Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island.

The Provinces of Ontario and Quebec have a distinct and separate Legislature, each making its own local laws, and, in fact, as separate and distinct as any of the States in the United States.

The old Order having passed away