

Lodge of Quebec will not hesitate next January to assert her rights:—

“We can hardly discuss the alleged action of the Grand Lodge of Quebec with any seriousness. When we realize that almost the youngest of Grand Bodies, and the least influential in some respects, should seek to adopt Roman Catholic or Fenian tactics, and ‘boycott,’ ‘excommunicate’ the English Masons and the Grand Lodge of England, it must be a subject of almost uncontrollable merriment to all the jurisdictions of Cosmopolitanism. The question in dispute is so simple, it all so ‘lies in a nutshell,’ that it seems well to put before our readers at home and abroad, once for all and once more, a clear and correct statement of all the facts of the case. To do this, we must go back a little. When, in years gone by, the Canadian Freemasons, for reasons ‘good, bad, or indifferent,’ determined on ‘secesh’ from the mother Grand Lodge of England, three lodges in Montreal specially declined to join the movement. Lord Zetland, in his acknowledgment of the Grand Lodge of Canada, stipulated for the legal position and acknowledgment of the Montreal lodges, and this fact was agreed to ‘nem. con.,’ the then Grand Lodge of Canada, Bro. Wilson, Grand Master, going out of his way, as an extant printed correspondence attests, to admit the right of the Montreal lodges so to act, the reasonableness, the Masonic correctness of their position; their inviolability as lawful lodges under the English jurisdiction, from which it was not unnatural they should not wish to separate themselves. This is all so plain, and clear, and incontestable, that we need not take up any more space with dilating on these indisputable preliminaries. And so all went on until the Quebec body was set up in ‘secesh,’ in turn, from the Grand Lodge of Canada, which for a time vigorously resented, and loudly denounced any such procedure. And even then, at

first, the Quebec Grand Lodge did not deny the legality of the English lodges. When the Grand Lodge of Canada and Grand Lodge of Quebec were forming their concordat of recognition, the legal position of the English lodges was admitted by the Grand Lodge of Quebec, (reserving to themselves the right to open friendly negotiations with the Grand Lodge of England thereanent), and nothing was said in any way intimating the unjustifiable position of later years. However, the Grand Lodge of Quebec is recognized and established, and then asks also for recognition from England. The English Grand Lodge, remembering Lord Zetland’s guarantee, says:—‘Certainly; but you must place the English lodges in the same position they were by ‘treaty-compact’ under the Grand Lodge of Canada.’ To this the Grand Lodge of Quebec, —unwisely advised,—demurred, and from that moment the troubles began. Since then a disposition has been openly avowed and evinced to ‘repudiate’ the old treaty and arrangement, and to claim even for the Grand Lodge of Quebec a power to over-rule the legal and Masonic action of the Grand Lodge of Canada originally ‘in the premises.’ No doubt other matters have cropped up, and other subjects have intervened, until we find ourselves threatened with a ‘Bull of Excommunication’ from the Grand Lodge of Quebec, after ceaseless allocations and endless long-winded manifestoes. There is, however, a question which might supervene, which we beg to commend to the careful attention of our Quebec brethren. When Lord Zetland undertook to conserve an existing jurisdiction for a time, and not to perpetuate it, he did so conditionally. If his clear and precise words are carefully read, it will be seen that this abnegation on the part of the English Grand Lodge was dependent on the courteous and peaceful recognition of the English lodges. *If, by any act of violence or intimidation, such legal position is jeopard-*