

from Rev. Canon Portal, to which my response was a request for his resignation as our Grand Representative. A comparison of the date of M. E. Comp. Graham's letter to him (3rd May, 1888), with the date of the semi-annual communication of that Grand Lodge at London, Eng., 5th June, 1888), affords an indication of the good faith towards us of the brother whom that Grand Lodge had recommended, and on that recommendation we had selected as our agent to look after our interests in that jurisdiction. With M. E. Comp. Graham's letter in his possession, with a mandate from us in his hands, he, as President of the General Board of that Grand Lodge, reported, endorsing the invasion of our territory. Far different was the conduct of their Representative to this Grand Chapter. The letters of the rev. brother in the appendix are evidently written with the sanction and authority of his Grand Lodge, for they are written at its office, bear its seal, and speak for that Grand Lodge and not for this Grand Chapter. They are made part of the *precis* of that Grand Lodge, and his defence is the subsequent defence of that Grand Lodge.

After the issue of the edict the correspondence has been more frequent and uninvited, but as little satisfactory as the previous silence of the executive of that Grand Lodge. I would remark, however, that the 'observations of R. W. Bro. Badgley,' referred to in the letter of their Grand Secretary of the 12th November last, and which were to be forwarded to me, have never been received, although patiently waited for. When the *precis* and letter of the Grand Secretary of that Grand Lodge was received (7th January inst.) my letter to the sister Grand Chapters of the world was in type, and so near distributed that I conceived it to be not worth while to delay doing so. My answer will, however, be submitted to you, and will appear in the Appendix.

It will be within the recollection of some of you that threats of legal proceedings have been made in the Montreal newspapers, against the officers of this Grand Chapter. That threat has assumed shape in the letter from a firm of advocates at Montreal, which appears at length in the Appendix. It is a demand on the part of two gentlemen with whom I am unacquainted, and of whom I never heard until the receipt of that letter demanding the withdrawal of the edict of 13th October before the 26th inst., under the threat of legal proceedings. As I did not recognize the authority I concluded to defer the withdrawal of the edict until a more convenient season. It is equally effective as a demand as the previous one of Rev. Canon Portal for an apology.

I leave the matter wholly in your hands. I have not thought it necessary to enter into any arguments in this address in support of our position, in view of the fact that the correspondence covers the matters in issue pretty fully, and such as are not therein given can readily be supplied by the committee and by companions here assembled. I do not desire to trespass upon the functions of the Grand Chapter in advising the course to be followed, but I am confident that this important subject will be carefully considered by you in a fraternal spirit, and the utterance of this Grand Chapter thereon will be characterized by calmness and dignity.

Our difficulty has been the subject of comment in Masonic periodicals, and has been brought before several Grand Chapters. Many await the result of our deliberations before entering upon the consideration of the subject. The Grand Chapters of Massachusetts and Iowa have spoken with no uncertain sound in their endorsement of our action, as will be seen upon an examination of the Report of our Committee on Foreign Correspondence; and I am satisfied in stating, at least as my opinion, that