

unanimity honorable to the Masonic intelligence and fidelity of its membership; (and ill-betide him who ever attempts to throw the 'apple of discord' into its midst) and few Grand Lodges have a more abiding place in the hearts and affections of the brethren of their jurisdiction, or have received more kindly, fraternal consideration and favor from the fraternity in general.

"Since we last met I received a brief fraternal note from the Grand Secretary of England, in reply to the final letter to the M. W. the Grand Master of England, submitted to you in my last annual address. To this I did not deem it to be necessary to return an immediate and formal answer, because I deemed it most advisable, before communicating further with the M. W. the Grand Master of England, first to submit to you, in this address, my views of the Masonic policy of the Grand Lodge of England towards Quebec and the other sister Grand Lodges in the British dependencies; and that having officially communicated the same to the Grand Master of that Mother Grand Lodge, there could not be any excuse on their part of not having been made fully aware of what Quebec considers her just claims for fraternal justice from the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland. Quebec sues not for mere favors; she respectfully and fraternally appeals to the Grand Lodge of England practically to concede and acknowledge her rights.

"Brethren, I have sought to state our rights and claims in plain language and in a fraternal manner; I have respectfully sought to satisfy the Grand Lodge of England of the justice of our position, and of the extreme necessity that she should with justice and propriety, and with advantage to herself, to us, and to the Craft in general, modify her policy toward us as humbly petitioned for, bearing in mind that whatever reasons may have seemed to justify her course towards Colonial Grand Lodges in the

past, the altered circumstances of the present imperatively require certain changes to be made therein for the local and general welfare of the Craft. In all that I have said and done in regard to these important matters, I think that I am fully justified in stating that in endeavoring to remove the causes of contention, I have sought to close the doors of the temple of strife, and to open wide the doors of the temple of concord; and that not only myself but this Grand Lodge has sought to be as loyal to the interests of the Grand Lodge of England, as to those of our own and of the Craft in general, and that I am assuredly correct in saying that it is one of our strongest desires to have all our relations to that Mother Grand Lodge amicably adjusted, to interchange Grand Representatives therewith, and to establish between our respective Grand Lodges a perpetual alliance of fraternal amity.

"And now, brethren of this Grand Lodge, for reasons which I think will be obvious to all of you, let me earnestly advise you not to take any special legislative action on this subject at the present communication, but in the still further exercise of the true spirit of our fraternity, calmly await the result of what has already been said and done, and what is likely to transpire in the near future, with the hope not wanting among the members of this Grand Body, and shared in by not a few other brethren, good friends of Quebec, both here and in Great Britain, that the consummation devoutly desired, may be peacefully and fraternally realized at an early day. So mote it be."

#### CLOSING WORDS.

And may he, upon whom this mantle will more worthily fall, "look well to this Grand East;" may he and all after him, who wield this sceptre, be endued with a goodly portion of the wisdom bestowed upon that monarch after whom this seat of honor is fittingly named; may all their official