

**QUEBEC-ENGLAND-ILLINOIS.**

We take the following from the *Freemasons' Chronicle*:—

**REPORT OF THE COLONIAL BOARD.**

*To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.*

The Colonial Board have to report to Grand Lodge, that they have had brought under their notice, an official copy of a circular issued by the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois, United States of America, dated 12th November, 1885, and sent from that Grand Lodge to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England.

This edict is addressed to the lodges in obedience to the Grand Lodge of Illinois, and recites a resolution of that Grand Lodge, to the effect that certain lodges existing in the Province of Quebec, and not owing allegiance to the Grand Lodge of that Province, are illegal and irregular; and charging the brethren of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, not to hold Masonic intercourse with such lodges, or with any members thereof, and the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Illinois thereon issues his edict accordingly.

With reference to this announcement, the Colonial Board have to call attention to the Proceedings of Grand Lodge of the 8th December, 1884, when a correspondence between His Royal Highness the Grand Master, and the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, was laid before the brethren.

It appeared by that correspondence, that the Grand Lodge of Quebec demanded that the warrants of the three lodges holding under this Grand Lodge, which have existed, and were working in Montreal long before the formation of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, should be at once withdrawn, because of the subsequent creation of that Grand Lodge, to which demand the Grand Master replied he was un-

able to accede, so long as these three lodges elected to remain under their original and lawful adherence to the Grand Lodge of England, and the Grand Lodge unanimously approved of the action thus taken by the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Since the Grand Secretary communicated the reply of the Grand Master to the Grand Lodge of Quebec, no official communication on the subject has been received from that body, but in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, for the year 1885, an announcement appears in the report of the Committee on Masonic Correspondence, that the Grand Master of Quebec had issued his edict "severing fraternal relations" with the "three recusant lodges holding authority from the Grand Lodge of England," and stating that the claim to have these lodges recognised as legally existing, "does not find any justification in law or common sense," and after quoting the edict of non-intercourse by the Grand Lodge of Quebec, it reports that the committee had requested the Representative of that Grand Lodge at the Grand Lodge of Illinois, to present the subject for consideration.

This having been done, the Grand Lodge of Illinois, at the instance of the Representative of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, requested its Grand Master to issue the edict of the 17th November, 1885, whereby all intercourse with the three lodges in question has been severed.

Inasmuch as the sole ground for thus ostracising the three lodges, is their continued allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England, the Colonial Board feels bound to submit to Grand Lodge, that it would not be consistent that direct relationship should continue to exist between it and the Grand Lodge of Illinois, and that the action of that body in thus intervening, leaves no other course open, than to vindicate the undoubted rights and privileges of this Grand