

loved by England, any *three* brethren in a Colony, whatever may be their reasons therefor, (and having an English Warrant,) may, under the auspices of their Mother Grand Lodge, maintain, with all their inherited diverse and conflicting lodge and other regulations, an *imperium in imperio* within the jurisdiction of any newly established Grand Lodge, in opposition to the views, the wishes, and the interests of any other number of brethren (or Lodges) be they ever so many!

Would such a principle of civil government be tolerated in any enlightened and well-regulated State? Can it be a fundamentally correct principle of Masonic governance, which puts it in the power of any such, or such like minority perpetually to mar the harmony, hinder the prosperity, and disturb the peace of the Fraternity, not only of the jurisdiction wherein they are situated, but also of the whole Masonic world?

Fully realizing what is involved therein, I ask seriously and most respectfully: Does or does not the Grand Lodge of England desire practically to prevent the erection of Independent Exclusive Masonic Sovereignties (like the British) elsewhere in the Empire? Does she, or does she not, purpose to consider and deal with Grand Lodges in the "self-governing" Colonies and National Dependencies (like Canada) as her *Peers*? Or, does she mean the Craft in the Dependencies to understand that the only way to Masonic Independence is through political Independence?

In heretofore commenting on the pleasing fact that England had, with mutual fraternal joy and rejoicing,

unconditionally recognized; had happily interchanged Grand Representatives and established fraternal correspondence with, the Grand Lodges of the State of New York, and of other Federal States of the American Union; and noting that she had as yet refused such to the Grand Lodge of the Federal Province (State) of Quebec of the Dominion of Canada (one of her own Dependencies), I made an official statement, and it appears to me, with the utmost moderation, as follows:—"It surely cannot be the policy of the Mother Grand Lodge of England to make a distinction in her dealings with the Grand Lodges of Separate and Independent Nations, and the Grand Lodges of her own Dependencies, and that too in any way to the disadvantage of the latter!"

Moreover, in seeking to secure peace, perpetual peace and union, and put an end to, and prevent the recurrence of discord, disunion and alienation, which latter are so abhorrent to the fundamental principles of our ancient and honorable Fraternity,—it seems to me that England ought not to be averse to learning lessons of wisdom *re* Colonial Masonic Government and inter-relationship—from the peculiar experiences which she has had, and from the improvements made during the past century and upwards, in the political governance of Colonies; and in the strengthening of friendly alliances therewith; nor be forgetful of some of the wise methods of statesmanlike diplomacy and action by which recalcitrant minorities have been brought to realize that union was most desirable, and that its great and manifold advantages must be secured!