

refusal of certain lodges claiming to act under the authority of the Grand Lodge of England, located within the Province of Quebec, to accept the proposals of the Grand Lodge of Quebec and submit to its lawful authority;

And whereas, the Grand Lodge of England, as we are informed, has not relinquished authority over said lodges, but supports them in their hostile and defiant position;

And whereas, edicts of non intercourse must be the resulting action on the part of Grand Lodges holding similar views with our own upon the question of Grand Lodge Sovereignty, if the course now followed by the Grand Lodge of England and its subordinates is continued; therefore,

Resolved, that this Grand Lodge, earnestly desiring an amicable settlement of said difficulty, and in a fraternal and courteous spirit, urges said lodges to accept the terms proposed by Quebec, and the Grand Lodge of England to relinquish its authority over said lodges, and extend to the Grand Lodge of Quebec that full and unqualified recognition which it rightfully deserves, and has so generously received from nearly every Grand Lodge in the world.

### THE SITUATION.

To the Editor of THE CRAFTSMAN.

I would like to draw the attention of Quebec Masons to an article in the *Freemason* of April 22nd, anent the English lodges now working irregularly in Montreal. It seems plain that the idea of excommunication of the Grand Lodge of England by the Grand Lodge of Quebec is not a pleasing one. Of course not. The Grand Lodge of England being the Mother Grand Lodge of the world, is above all law, and amenable to no one for any of her eccentricities—in fact, it is a crime for the Grand Lodge of Quebec to point out to the Masonic world how the Mother Grand Lodge is violating Masonic law and precedent. The backwoods Masons of Quebec should be dumb about their wrongs, and blind to the trampling under foot of their rights as a Grand Lodge, and reverentially listen when Sir Oracle opes his mouth. See how nicely Manitoba acted recently on the remonstrance of England and Scotland about a territory that no one claimed exclusive jurisdiction over, but some two or three Grand Lodges were exercising concurrent jurisdiction. It is highly indecorous and unmasonic for Quebec Masons to show any signs of impatience at the wrong doings of their elders, hoary with age. This Quebec Grand Lodge has only been about thirteen years in existence, and it is consequently very bumptious on its part to

fancy it possesses any of the rights of a Grand Lodge. Suffering wrong for thirteen years is a mere bagatelle that should not be mentioned. England recognizes the independence of the Quebec Grand Lodge. What more, then, is necessary? This ought to settle everything, of course. Some of the Quebec Masons are vain enough to imagine their Grand Lodge the peer of any Grand Lodge in the world, and possessing equal rights with any of them; and that one Grand Master possesses at least a share of intelligence that seems sufficient to cope with the requirements of his position, even if he is not fully as deferential as the *Freemason* would have him to be, or as oblivious of the rights of his Grand Lodge as would be agreeable to that same authority in Masonic matters. In order to realize the impatience of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, it is well to recall the fact that the Grand Lodge of Canada (Ontario), has been in existence some twenty-five years, and that the Grand Lodge of England has for this period sustained these lodges in resisting the Masonic authority of the land, although the ancient charges declare that a Mason is "cheerfully to conform to every lawful authority, to uphold on every occasion the interest of the community, and zealously promote the prosperity of his own country." Since the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, tune and again overtures have been made to these lodges, and remonstrances made with the Mother Grand Lodge, and all to no purpose. The more they were piped to, the more they would not dance. The English Grand Lodge says to them: We will sustain you as long as you wish to remain under our banner; and they (the English lodges) say, As long as the Grand Lodge of England protects us, we will remain as we are. And they call this loyalty. Now, the question arises, is this loyalty due to the Mother Grand Lodge or to Masonry? It seems to some of us that the interest of the Craft has the first claim upon us, and not the claim of any particular Grand Lodge; and the Grand Lodge of Quebec being the recognized lawful authority, it would seem, according to the ancient charges, to be the duty of every Mason to "cheerfully conform" to it, but it would not appear, to judge by their acts, that these English Masons recognize the force of such teaching.

It might interest the *Freemason* to know that it is entirely owing to the pleading, year after year, for another chance for these wayward brethren, on the part of Grand Master Graham, that has so far kept them from being interdicted. On him rests the responsibility that the edict has not been issued. In fact, he has rather exceeded the instructions of Grand Lodge in not issuing it long ago. But these