

The supreme, sovereign, absolute control of true Freemasonry is vested exclusively in a Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons. The Blue Lodge, a subordinate of a Grand Lodge, has the right, power and authority to make Masons. It is governed by the traditional acknowledged and undenied landmarks, usages and customs of Freemasonry. It confers only the Symbolic degrees, which are the foundation of Masonry. There is no other Masonic authority to confer these Degrees.

When he enlarges the above proposition to make it apply to the Masonry of other countries than those already indicated by us, we take exception to it, as we do to his assertion that "wherever else, or by whomsoever, these Degrees are conferred, is a clandestine and wholly reprobated and denied authority." If Bro. Vaux's pretensions are correct, it cannot be true that the sun is always at its meridian as regards Freemasonry, or that the legitimate article is universally diffused over the habitable surface of the globe. Shall the hand of fellowship and Brotherly love and aid be withheld from the bands of noble men and Masons who are Masonically struggling for the truth and freedom's sake, in the unenlightened lands of Southern Europe and America, because their Masonry has neither produced nor yet proceeded from Grand Lodges? Let us beware, in this last and most enlightened decade of the nineteenth century, of countenancing anything that smacks of illiberality or prejudice. Let us take heed, lest by our traditions we make of none effect the boasted universality of Freemasonry. Wherein is the consistency of straining at the gnat of Freemasonry's origin in South America and continental Europe, if we are prepared to swallow the huge Masonic heresy that legitimate Freemasonry is almost solely to be found in the English-speaking countries of the world?

"If," says Bro. Vaux, "a body called by any name which professes to be Masonic, and cannot prove that it originated in and was established by the authority of a Grand Lodge, or from a subordinate Lodge of such Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, it cannot be recognized as a Masonic body." This is almost as startling a proposition as that of Bro. Robbins, of Illinois, that "Masonry only originated in the British Isles, and that all there is of it descended from the Grand Lodge."

It appears to us that we cannot do better, just here, than again refer to Bro. Thompson's words, quoted under "Dakota":—

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