

tober, 1880, a reply was sent on the 1st January, 1881. To another letter from this Grand Chapter of date of 11th June, 1881, a reply was sent dated 21st November, 1881. And that is not all, the positive statements of this Grand Chapter, the written declaration of such eminent Masons as Past Grand Master A. A. Stevenson and R. E. Companion Thomas Milton, are coolly put aside because the Grand Superintendent of the Grand Chapter of England states to the contrary. Thus a statement of this Grand Chapter, supported by four eminent Masons cognizant of the facts, is rejected on the counter-statement of one man who could not be so well informed in the premises as those who had made the affirmative declarations.

A careful examination of the dates of the correspondence submitted herewith further illustrates the position I assumed as likely to occur. With the past experience to guide me, and with a knowledge of the injury caused and likely to be caused to Masonry in this Province if the controversy was to be dragged on for months and years, I deemed it wiser to cut short the dilatory procedure of our English brethren by frankly stating our wrongs, demanding redress, and then closing our doors. The action of the officials of that Grand Lodge, before and since, amply justifies the assumption thus made that in all probability the old procedure as to correspondence would be repeated. In my opinion the correspondence might have continued for years without definite results; we might have written and complained over and over again without receiving satisfaction or scarcely a courteous acknowledgment of our letters or complaints, had it not been that the edict severing fraternal relations was issued, thus putting the matter upon a basis where it would have to be treated with some regard to the brevity of life and in accordance with Masonic principles

and the ordinary method of conducting business.

But it must not be understood that I proceeded rashly against our English brethren, though the provocation was such as to warrant but little delay. You will note in the correspondence that M. E. Comp. Graham, on the 3rd of May last, wrote our Grand Representative in England about the matter, and receiving no reply on the 23rd of June wrote the Grand Master of that Grand Lodge with like results. It was in June my official attention was particularly called to the subject as requiring action. Reluctant to proceed to harsh measures, after consultation with my predecessors in office, it was thought best to await the results of the correspondence of M. E. Comp. Graham with the English officials. That correspondence producing no effect I wrote Lord Henniker, the Grand Master of that Grand Lodge, the letter which appears in the Appendix, and demanded the withdrawal of the warrants of the Mark Lodges at Montreal complained of on or before the 24th of September then next, under penalty of the severance of fraternal relations. Copies of that letter were transmitted to Lord Henniker and to the Provincial Grand Master of his Grand Lodge at Montreal, and afterwards forwarded to the sister Grand Chapters in order to disclose to them our position, that if wrong we might be corrected and if right sustained. Thus over three months had elapsed between the first letter of M. E. Comp. Graham and the one first sent by me. The delay stated in my said letter expired without any response or the slightest notice being given thereto, and the 13th of October I placed in the printer's hands the threatened edict; but in the hope that something might occur to change the position of affairs its issue was delayed until the last days in October. On the 29th of October a letter, written in terms which I am reluctant to characterize as it possibly deserves, was received.