

ed to interchange Grand Representatives, on the ground that they are not Grand Lodges (NOTE—Notably the Grand Lodge of Iowa.—ED. CRAFTSMAN) of Sovereign States politically, and if such be the case will some wise one be pleased to inform us in what respect, as a State of the United States of America, as to its State and Federal rights, New York is superior to any other State in the Union, and if not, then her Grand Lodge is but the Masonic peer of the Grand Lodge of every other State, even of the smallest.

“Moreover, 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!!

“Brethren, I cannot as yet believe that the ‘Imperial’ Mother Grand Lodge of England, or her Royal Grand Master, or the many able leaders of the oldest and greatest of all existing Grand Lodges, knowingly and purposely intend to deny to this young Grand Lodge, or to any other Grand Lodge within our now world-encircling Empire, the rights which she concedes to Grand Lodges in other lands; or continue to do aught which will mar the peace, unity and prosperity of the Craft here or elsewhere. I am therefore, as yet, of the opinion that the course pursued by her in the past, is largely due to what may be deemed to be a want of attention to the facts of the case, and a non-consideration of the actual state of Masonic ‘Colonial’ affairs, and to a forgetfulness, largely resulting from the comparatively settled condition of their own Masonic status,—of the fact that their brethren in the remote portions of the Empire are but engaged in laying the foundations of Masonic Sovereignties; that they are thus necessarily and practically brought face to face with all the fundamental principles in-

involved in the erection of their new Grand Superstructures, that they are, by inheritance and by training, jealous of their inherent and traditional rights as Freemasons, and that they desire to realize them to their fullest extent, even as they are possessed and enjoyed by their brethren in the mother countries and elsewhere in the Masonic world.

“There are also reasons for believing that the rulers of the Craft in Great Britain have been led into errors concerning Quebec, by representations, personal and other, which, had they been made openly and officially, as those of Quebec are and have been, they would, I believe, have been satisfactorily explained or refuted. I have reason also to suppose that many of our good brethren in England and Scotland have been led to think that the Quebec Grand Lodge movement was chiefly the offspring of individual over-zeal and misguided ambition; whereas having had a tolerably intimate acquaintance with nearly every brother who has been officially identified with this Grand Lodge from its organization, and not being unacquainted with the history of some other Grand Lodges, I deem it but simple justice to myself and to my *confreres*, to say, that I never knew a like instance, nor do I believe that many like have ever been, wherein more prolonged or more thoughtful consideration was given to a like movement, or concerning which there has been more self-abnegation, or a more manifest desire to forego individual preferment for the promotion of the general welfare. And as to its having been the work of but a few, it was, on the contrary, a general movement among the great majority of the Freemasons of the Province, and the result of a general consensus of opinion and sentiment seldom paralleled; and from its organization in 1869, until now, its affairs have been conducted, and its professed principles enunciated, adhered to and maintained with a prudence and