

certainly did not think or care anything of Grand Lodge jurisdictions. Therefore, the Legislature, not wishing to interfere with the limits of the Grand Lodge, and not being able to do so, if it did wish, it follows as a first consequence, that any division must be effected by the Grand Lodge itself. Did the Grand Lodge so decide to divide and set off Quebec as a separate territory? No, she emphatically and by a large majority voted not to do it, for reasons best known to those interested in the welfare of the Grand Lodge.

Now if the Grand Lodge voted not to divide, and no other power could do it for her, how comes into existence the Grand Lodge of Quebec? The brethren who formed it could not find the right in their covenants as Master Masons; they could not find it in their charters; but they found it only in the right of Masonic rebellion or secession from the mother body, and for one we deny that any such rights legally exists, and that it can only be exercised by a direct violation of a solemn vow of obedience. This is strong language, but it is the logical and irresistible conclusion to which every Master Mason must be driven who will take the trouble to analyze the case. Now, for ourself, we do not believe that so many brethren, if any, in the province of Quebec, could be brought to do this upon any such alternative as a violated vow. Then what was it? We present the other horn of the dilemma, and call it "want of knowledge." We regret to present this alternative, but it is a far more honorable one than the other. It was ignoring that fundamental principle of Grand Lodge sovereignty which we have already cited in the beginning of this review.

Certain parties carried away by sophistry and special pleading, held, that because two provinces were created out of one that therefore there must be two Grand Lodges; but they forgot to carry their reasoning a little further to see that their logic would not only *divide* the Grand Lodge, but *annihilate* it, for if the Grand Lodge of Canada was not a Grand Lodge for Quebec, it could not be for Ontario; therefore it could be for nothing.

There has been no legal precedent for such a case in the history of the Masonic world. The only one that assimilates to it was the case of West Virginia, and that was a precedent born from the womb of one of the greatest civil wars the world has ever seen, and it was baptized in the name of a "military necessity," overriding the sovereign reserved and vested rights of a State, and the Grand Lodge of Missouri emphatically refused to endorse any such violation of the integrity and Masonic honor of the venerable Grand Lodge of Virginia, and she refused them without the slightest ill will or prejudice, political or local, against the appellant for recognition. We believe that every member of this Grand Lodge is incapable of being influenced by any such petty considerations, although one or two parties were petty enough to charge her with it. That charge, however, we overlooked, as it was the natural ebullition of small minds to take the place of sound arguments. Finally the Grand Lodge of Virginia agreed to compromise the matter by recognizing the Grand Lodge of West Virginia upon the latter paying certain dues. Thus was that difficulty *compromised*, and the Grand Lodge of Missouri acquiesced and extended her recognition.

It must be borne in mind that not one of the Grand Lodges which so hastily and in the excitement of the hour, extended recognition in advance of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, would have dared to have