

CONSTITUTIONAL JURISPRUDENCE.

P. G. M. GRAHAM OF QUEBEC.

In one of his Annual Addresses, Grand Master Graham of Quebec enunciated, among others, the following fundamental propositions:—

"That the several federal provinces constituting the Dominion of Canada, and the colonies throughout the British Empire, having local constitutional government, are severally as much entitled to form and to have Grand Lodges, possessing and exercising exclusive sovereign jurisdiction within their respective geographical and legislative boundaries, as are England, Scotland, and Ireland, as component parts of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; or as are the several federal States and organized territories of the United States of America, or as are any separate and distinct Kingdoms, or the like."

"That from its formation, every regularly constituted Grand Lodge, as to its privileges, prerogatives, and duties, and as to whatever else of right appertains to a Grand Lodge of Freemasons, is the peer of every other regular Grand Lodge, and no other Grand Body can lawfully exercise Masonic craft authority within its territorial jurisdiction."

"That it is the duty of every private lodge situated within the territorial jurisdiction of a regularly formed Grand Lodge, but which, through any cause, was not represented at its organization, to become, at an early day thereafter, of allegiance to the new Grand Body, and to be enrolled on its registry; or upon its refusal, it may be deemed and declared to be an irregular lodge in not submitting to the lawfully constituted Masonic sovereignty of the country."

P. G. M. DRUMMOND OF MAINE.

P. G. M. Drummond of Maine, in one of his most learned reviews, says:—"Grand Master Graham of Quebec, in his address, glances at a few salient points in the history of his Grand Lodge, and then proceeds to give his correspondence with the Grand Lodge of England in relation to its three lodges in Quebec, in which he discusses in a most masterly manner, and maintains with singular ability, the inherent right of a Grand Lodge to supreme, exclusive jurisdiction in its own territory. He shows among other things, that the constitution of the Grand Lodge of England provides that no lodge 'shall be acknowledged' * * unless it 'has been regularly constituted and registered'; in other words, no

lodge in England can be recognized unless it is borne on the Registry of the Grand Lodge. The G. M. of Quebec further says that he has been informed that there is a lodge in England, organized under the authority of a foreign Masonic power, and that this lodge is completely ignored by the English Masons, and is practically held to be a clandestine lodge. Moreover he points out that the constitution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland forbids the recognition of any lodge (within its territory) which does not hold under itself, and he quotes the following adopted by the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1768: 'Read the petition of William Leslie and other brethren residing in London, praying a charter of constitution from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, which being considered, the Grand Lodge declined giving them any charter, in regard it would interfere with the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, but declared their willingness to recommend them to the Grand Lodge of England in case they should think proper to apply for a charter from thence.'

P. G. M. Drummond quotes also as follows (1) from the same address of Grand Master Graham, and adds—"We think the following is fully established by him":—

(1.) "It therefore clearly appears that the principle of coincidence, or coterminousness of political and Masonic boundaries is an acknowledged law of the British Constitutions; that the jurisdiction of each Grand Lodge is exclusive within its geographical limits; that each of these Grand Lodges is absolutely sovereign, and that each of them may, and does, enforce its territorial, exclusive, sovereign authority, by the most extreme Masonic penalties against all lodges existing within their boundaries in contravention thereto, or in violation thereof."

And, after quoting the paragraph of the same address, relating to the advice not to take any final action at that time, Bro. Drummond says:—"The G. M. of Quebec then goes on to give the reasons which are worthy of one who (while he would maintain the rights of his Grand Lodge), would not disturb the peace of the Masonic world, until all hope of a peaceful and fraternal settlement has failed."

Our excellent contemporary, *The Victorian Freemason*, of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, has republished in full the recent admirable letter in *THE CRAFTSMAN* on "Masonic Charity," giving due credit thereof.