

"Of Private Lodges," is the following:—"The precedence of Lodges is derived from the number of their constitution, as recorded in the books of the Grand Lodge. No Lodge shall be acknowledged, nor its officers admitted into the Grand Lodge or a Provincial Grand Lodge, nor any of its members entitled to partake of the general charity or other Masonic privilege, unless it has been regularly constituted and registered."

#### CONSTITUTION OF THE G. L. OF SCOTLAND.

In "The Laws and Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland," edition "May 5, 1863," page 20, section 6, "Provincial Grand Lodges," and page 43, section 1, "General Regulations for Subordinate Lodges," are the following:—

"6. (Page 20.) Provincial Grand Masters are strictly enjoined not to recognize any Lodge in Scotland acting independently of the Grand Lodge, nor to allow any such to attend any Masonic meeting or ceremonial of which they have the management and control."

"1. (Page 43.) All Lodges holding of the Grand Lodge of Scotland are strictly prohibited and discharged from holding any other meeting than those of the three orders, viz: Apprentice, Fellow-Craft and Master Mason—denominated St. John's Masonry, the Mark forming part of the Second Degree; and from giving any countenance, as a body, to any other Order of Masonry, or to any Lodge in Scotland which does not hold of the Grand Lodge, or which has been suspended or struck from the roll thereof, either by paying or receiving visits, walking in the same procession, or otherwise, under certification that such Lodges as shall act on the contrary shall be struck from the Roll of Lodges, and their charters recalled."

#### THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

Hence, it appears that the Grand

Lodge of England, the premier Grand Lodge of the world, in promulgating the "Constitutions of Free and Accepted Masons," enunciated in her Grand Lodge Constitution, as a fundamental law, that "no Lodge" within the limits of what was formerly the Kingdom of England (no matter when established, whether before or after her own formation), "shall be acknowledged" as a regular Lodge of Freemasons; "nor" shall "any of" the "members" thereof "be entitled to partake of the general charity" even (*in extremis*?), nor to partake of or participate in any "other Masonic privilege" whatever, "unless said Lodge has been regularly constituted and registered" on the Registry of the Grand Lodge of England!

#### EXCLUSIVE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

The above is a clear, distinct and unambiguous declaration of the inherent right of the Grand Lodge of England to have and to exercise exclusive sovereign authority over every regular Lodge of Freemasons within what was formerly the Kingdom of England; and also of her right and duty to put beyond the pale of acknowledgment and correspondence, every Lodge within her territorial limits, which is not of her obedience, and to deprive the members of any Lodge, not on her Registry, of every Masonic privilege whatever, even of the general charity; declaring, in fact, any such Lodge to be an irregular or clandestine Lodge.

Here, then, is the doctrine of Grand Lodge sovereignty in the Constitution of the premier Grand Lodge of the world, and her method of dealing with Lodges within her territory which do not acknowledge her undivided sovereign authority!

#### THE GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland (in her G. L. Constitution, as shown above) accepting and acting upon the same principles of the "Ancient"