

with all American Grand Lodges, that each State Grand Lodge holds exclusive jurisdiction within the State, and that no other Grand Lodge can grant dispensations to form new Lodges in said territory, *nor even exercise control over such Lodges as may originally have belonged to them, after a Grand Lodge has been recognized by sister Grand jurisdictions.*" And again he says:—"The American Grand Lodges should protest against this *qualified independence*, as its endorsement, and even their silence upon the subject, will be disastrous to international comity." "There seems to be but one course to pursue in this matter, to protect our own jurisdictional rights from invasion. We must sustain the Grand Lodge of Quebec. The M. W. Grand Lodge of Missouri should make a deliverance upon this subject which should be plain and unmistakable, and if such a course be persisted in, let the Grand Lodge of Scotland be isolated." The present action of the Grand Lodge of Missouri towards its own Masonic offspring in New Mexico, shows how easy it is to see the mote in your neighbor's eye, and how difficult it is to cast the beam out of your own! We confess that we have, at times, leaned towards the doctrine that no Lodge could be lawfully or Masonically *required, against its will*, to resign its allegiance to its mother Grand Lodge, and accept a new warrant from the Grand Lodge formed in its territory; but after considering the question in all of its bearings, it is clear to us that Masonic harmony and Masonic law both make it necessary that there should be no co-ordinate jurisdiction in occupied territory. That Grand Lodge is no *sovereign* Grand Lodge which has subordinate Lodges within her boundaries that pay honor and tribute to a foreign body. To term such a body an Independent Grand Lodge is to misname it. It is but a fractional body—an anomalous Provincial Grand Lodge. It is the creature of circumstances not a sovereign and indepen-

dent entity. *Every Grand Body in Masonry must be sovereign.* This is the rightful doctrine of American Masonic law. The Grand Lodges of Minnesota and Missouri in the United States, and the Grand Lodge of Scotland, abroad, are now acting in direct contravention to this doctrine, and the sooner they cease to do so the sooner they will restore that fraternal harmony which should exist between all the Grand Bodies in Freemasonry. We cannot doubt that Minnesota and Missouri will soon see their error, and amend it and we wish we could say the same of Scotland. But that venerable and respected jurisdiction has not only given aid and comfort to its daughter Lodge of Elgin, at Montreal, in the territory of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, but it has done that which no Masonic jurist will defend—chartered *two new* Lodges in Quebec's jurisdiction, and organized therein a Provincial Grand Lodge of Scotland. Should this course be persisted in, the unhappy result will be that fraternal relations will eventually cease between all of the American Grand Lodges and the Grand Lodge of Scotland. They have already ceased between both Illinois and Nevada, and Scotland, and it is only a matter of time as to when fraternal intercourse will be cut off between the Ancient Scottish Grand Lodge and all the Grand Bodies of America. Scotland, after having once recognized Quebec, could not, by subsequently withdrawing its recognition, thereby become empowered to grant warrants for new subordinate Lodges in Quebec's territory. Such a claim is without excuse, and a palpable absurdity. As Bro. Past Grand Master Simons, of New York, lately said in the N. Y. *Dispatch*:

"The moment the Grand Lodge of Quebec was established and recognized as it has been—by a majority of the Grand Lodges of the world, there remained no possible justification for an invasion of its jurisdiction by any other power what-