

Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge, as may seem best to him, non-intercourse with any Lodge, or pretended Lodge, in this jurisdiction, that persistently refuses to recognize the supremacy of this Grand Lodge.

Can any Freemason, possessing but a slight modicum of common-sense, to say nothing of the genuine feelings of Fraternity, object to the above? Actuated by the most brotherly motives, and in accordance with the teachings of the Masonic Society, the Grand Lodge of Quebec *invited* the recusant Lodges to perform their duty, and become united with it, as the Sovereign Masonic power in the Province. It offered them, if they ceased to be stubborn and comply with the Masonic Law, to give them on their submission, "the same rights and privileges" with the major of the Lodges of the Province, who formed the Grand Lodge in October, 1869. A Grand Lodge cannot, *as such*, treat with subordinates, unless it lowers itself to the equal of a subordinate, and by so doing ceases to command the respect and recognition of all other Grand Lodges. Quebec acted with leniency, not precipitately or harshly; and if the out-standing Lodges do not avail themselves of its clemency, the fault will rest with them, and the punishment, if inflicted, be deservedly earned, though it be expulsion.

In regard to the Lodges illegally formed, since the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, it went just so far and no farther, than has been the established usage. It offered the following *generous* terms, for the sake of harmony:

That, to all Lodges irregularly formed since October 20, 1869, this Grand Lodge is disposed to extend all the clemency that is consistent with the maintenance of the integrity of this Grand Lodge and the Constitution of the Order, even to the issuing of new Warrants and healing of work already done, provided always that the rights of Lodges already recognized by this Grand Lodge be not in any way infringed.

It has been the universal usage, that the men made in a Clandestine Lodge can only be brought within the fold of Masonry by *healing*. This the Grand Lodge of Quebec offers to do, as was done by New York and other Grand Lodges on this side of the great lakes, and was all that could be done, without acknowledging the right of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, to invade them. It tempered Justice with Mercy. It was a graceful act, and should be appreciated as such.

Having done all this, with the desire of promoting relations, unwisely severed by the Grand Lodge of Ontario, the Grand Lodge of Quebec further gave evidence of its desire for a restoration of complete Masonic relations, by authorising its Grand Master to delay appealing to the Grand Lodges already in fraternal correspondence with it, to give their co-operation in sustaining it in its authority, unlawfully set at naught, as it did when in Grand Communication all intercourse was shut off between it and the Grand Orient of France, and the Lodges and Masons of that Obedience. The resolution reads thus.

That the Grand Master be authorized to order the foregoing to be communicated at such time as may seem expedient to him to those Grand Bodies that are already in fraternal correspondence with this Grand Lodge, and request their co-operation and assistance in maintaining the authority and supremacy of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, in the Province of Quebec, and vindicating the sovereignty of the Grand Lodges in their respective territories.

In the above, we have endeavored fairly to present to the brethren who have honored us by letter with their expressions of opinion from Ontario; and thus publicly to state, that every action taken by G. L. of Quebec, last September, but the more clearly gave evidence that it knew how to maintain its own dignity, while yielding a great deal, *in not at once inflicting summary punishment on the *ref. arto y.**

And now to another point which must before long be brought up for action among our numerous Grand Lodges; for when G. Lodges are connected together by G. Representatives, as the G. Lodge of Ontario is, and has been, with American G. Lodges it must be compelled to show its hand, and declare one way or the other.

When the G. Lodge of Canada, now *Ontario*, was formed, it solicited recognition from every American Grand Lodge, as a Masonic power. These recognitions, it is true, were granted more slowly than has been the case with Quebec, mainly because it had not a majority of recognized Lodges, previously existing, connected with it.

The acknowledgements, however, finally came, and it became, as is Quebec now a fixed fact. Without these acknowledgements the G. L. of Canada, would have been nowhere. Yet, after all its solicitations for acknowledgement, and all its efforts to prevent Quebec from being recognized, it has permitted the jurisdiction of its American Sisters to be invaded—of which it could not plead ignorance—and has never repudiated by words or deeds the transgressors, but still clasps them to its bosom. Is it because it desired to be similarly a transgressor itself? We shall soon find out