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QUEBEC AND THE GRAND MARK LODGE OF ENGLAND.

The following able exposition of the relations of the Grand Chapter of Quebec with the Grand Mark Lodge of England, we take from the Foreign Correspondence Report of Maine. The article is very fairly written, and is well worthy of perusal by all who care to be well informed on this important question:—

We have not received the Proceedings for the year ending June, 1884, but have received a large number of documents relating to the unfortunate controversy between the Grand Mark Lodge and the Grand Chapter of Quebec.

It will be impossible to copy the documents issued by the respective parties, or even to give an abstract of them. But it is believed that an accurate statement of the facts, and of the claims of the parties, may be given within the bounds of a report on correspondence.

When the Grand Lodge of Canada was formed, nearly thirty years ago, certain lodges did not join in the movement. It was then the well-settled law on this continent, that when a Grand Lodge is formed it has exclusive jurisdiction over all its territory, and consequently over all lodges in that territory. But the Grand Lodge of England declined to recognize the Grand Lodge of Canada, unless the then existing English Lodges in Canada were allowed to re-

main under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England. To this the Grand Lodge of Canada unwisely acceded,—a little firmness then would have settled the question in accordance with American precedents. The result has been dissension ever since; the peace of the Masonic world has been disturbed in consequence of allowing these lodges to remain under the foreign jurisdiction, more than by any other cause during the last generation.

When the Grand Lodge of Quebec was formed, these lodges claimed the same exemption; the old treaty between the Grand Lodges of England and Canada was set up; but as the Grand Lodge of Quebec was created by the lodges of that Province by virtue of their inherent right, and not by virtue of a grant from the Grand Lodge of Canada, the claim of these lodges had no validity. The Grand Lodge of Quebec has not yielded to that claim, but, in a spirit of unsurpassed forbearance, has resorted only to mild measures to secure its rights.

The Grand Chapter of Canada was formed in 1857, and the Grand Chapter of England recognized it in 1860, "reserving, however, to all chapters now in Canada, who are still holding charters under the Grand Chapter of England, as also to English Royal Arch Masons, all their rights, titles, and privileges, as fully and freely as