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AGAINST COERCION.

BY BRO. WM. E. GINTHER.

The turbulent and revolutionary spirit that pervaded the unhappy Grand Lodge of Quebec, at her inception, has again culminated in an edict of non-intercourse; this time with the mother Grand Lodge of the world, and all of her subordinates and individual members in all parts of the earth.

When her first bull of excommunication was promulgated, January 1st, 1885, a prominent Past Grand Master of Masons of Illinois, whose counsel was potent with her leaders, and who sympathized with and encouraged her high-handed measures, said:—"Now that the Grand Lodge of Quebec has acted, there will come up from every legitimate grand body of our continent, hearty congratulations;" and this sentiment was logically followed up by getting the Grand Lodge of Illinois to take up the quarrel and "play second fiddle" to Quebec; and all thinking Masons, who are posted on the past events, doubtless will agree with me, that the signs are propitious for a further attempt, to have her again follow suit, at her next annual communication in October, unless made unpopular by a revulsion of feeling among the rank and file.

As is well known by reading Masons, the extravagant expectations of universal sympathy with the policy of ostracism and coercion have not been realized, hence it is a little

singular that Quebec should launch another and more extended act of hate, affecting in its baneful consequences every limb of the great fraternal tree, at a time when the reverse was becoming painfully manifest; for, with the exception of Illinois, and possibly two others, ominous disapproval of this violence and unfraternal action, has been for some time wasted, more or less pronounced, from various grand jurisdictions across "this tempestuous sea of trouble," gathering force at every turn.

It may be, however, that apprehension of the overwhelming growth of this healthy opposition caused the attempt to forestall its force, by compelling immediate "harmony" through a "coup de grace." This seems probable from the evident disappointment of her authorities, apparent in a letter by her Grand Secretary, to the editor of *The Keystone*, an influential Masonic weekly, published in the city of Brotherly Love, to effect a reconsideration by him of his article in the issue of July 24th, in which he condemned the edict by Grand Master Walker, and the revolutionary course of his Grand Lodge, as well as the bullying assistance given them by Illinois, supporting his position by quotations from the Grand Master of New York, "Lux e Tenebra" and *Kansas Light*, deprecating the same wickedness. If the consolation administered in the