

the past few years has been very remarkable, and particularly in the United Kingdom, where, according to recent authority, it has been computed that nearly one out of every four or five men of the upper and middle classes is a Mason. The Grand Lodge of England has now three Princes occupying the three first chairs,—the Prince of Wales being Grand Master, the Duke of Connaught, Senior Grand Warden, and Prince Leopold, Junior Grand Warden.

In the month of May last, the gratifying intelligence was received that at their previous quarterly communication, held at Edinburgh, the Grand Lodge of Scotland unanimously resolved to open fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Quebec. Regarding this resolution as extending to our Grand Lodge the recognition we asked for in the early part of last year, as a legally constituted and established Grand Lodge, having and exercising supreme Masonic jurisdiction in and over the Province of Quebec, I cheerfully acquiesced in the suggestion, by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, of the name of Bro. Robert Wylie, of Mother Kilwinning Lodge, as representative of this Grand Lodge near the Grand Lodge of Scotland; and Sir Michael Robert Shaw Stewart, Baronet, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Scotland, has honored me with a commission appointing me to be the representative in the Province of his Grand Lodge. The correspondence on the subject of this important recognition has been printed, and will be submitted for your consideration.

A copy of the proceedings of this Grand Lodge, at its seventh annual communication, was forwarded in February last to the Grand Lodge of England, but no action seems to have been taken with reference to the question raised by your resolution.

Neither has the Grand Lodge of Missouri as yet receded from the position which it assumed toward us, though I have every reason to believe that if Brother Gouley, the well-known Secretary of that Grand Lodge, who lost his life at the destruction by fire of the Southern Hotel at St. Louis, had been spared, he would have endeavored to have secured for us a fair and satisfactory settlement, if not the full advantages of the North American doctrine as to exclusive jurisdiction.

Repeated enquiries having been made as to the attitude of this Grand Lodge

towards the so-called "Grand Lodge of Ontario" and its members, I deemed it necessary to interdict all intercourse or Masonic communication with the lodges under that organization, and the several members thereof, until you shall have taken action in the premises. This imperative step was justified by the Grand Lodge of Canada, at its 21st annual communication, officially brought under my notice, and I could not but respect its sentence of expulsion, pending your decision. A similar course was adopted by the Grand Masters of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Louisiana and other States. I am not aware that the doctrine contended for by the so-called "Grand Lodge of Ontario" has been admitted by any regular body of Masons, nor that it has had recognition extended to it by any other Grand Lodge than that of Texas, which was soon withdrawn. The proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Canada will be laid before you, with a copy of my circular.

A petition for recognition has been received from the Grand Lodge of Cuba, already recognized by the Grand Lodges of several States. It will engage your attention, together with an application for information as to the establishment of a new Grand Lodge at Sydney, New South Wales.

For the relief of members of the Craft who were sufferers by the great fire at St. John, New Brunswick, I caused two hundred dollars to be promptly forwarded, and I rely upon the Grand Lodge to confirm the grant. I also authorized the issue of a circular to each subordinate Lodge, soliciting pecuniary aid for our unfortunate brethren in that city, who have lost their library and nearly all the contents of the office of the Grand Secretary. As Freemasonry is nothing without charity, I feel I have but to remind you of the calamity which has befallen our brethren in the sister Province to awaken your further sympathy and substantial assistance, if needed.

During my term of office, I learned with regret that R. W. Bro. Edgar had resigned his position as Representative of the Grand Lodge of New York near the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and I had much pleasure in suggesting R. W. Bro. Tait, Deputy Grand Master, as his successor. I have given a commission to R. W. Bro. Calvin G. Shaw, as our Grand Representative near the Grand Lodge of Dakota, and that Grand Lodge has named W.