

may be dealt with as provided for in the constitutions of England, Scotland, and of others; and in my opinion the Grand Lodge of old Canada, unlawfully bartered its birth right of exclusive masonic sovereignty, the acknowledgment of the possession of which she had justly received from nearly all the sovereign Grand Lodges of the United States,—in accepting as she did, through M. W. Bro. the Earl of Zetland, G. M. of England, concurrent jurisdiction - recognition from that Grand Body, than which as it appears to me, no act could have been more short-sighted and unconstitutional or, consequently more detrimental to the interests of freemasonry in Canada and elsewhere, as is shown by the condition of local and interjurisdictional masonic affairs here, and in other parts of the Empire at the present time, and which if not speedily remedied, will, in all probability, be still worse in time to come. Was it to be supposed that such an unconstitutional compromise, fraught with such deplorable consequences, would stand through one generation of craftsmen who know their masonic rights and dare maintain them? Impossible.

"The Grand Lodge of Quebec holds, moreover, that while continuity of existence, at will, is conferred upon a lodge by its charter, continuity of G. L. allegiance and obedience is not, but that the latter must necessarily be transferred to the newly formed local masonic sovereignty, or it may adopt the alternative of dissolution. The shadow even of the right to continuity of G. L. allegiance at will, under such circumstances, never, in my opinion, fell upon the parchment of any regular charter ever granted, and no Grand Lodge could ever rightfully insert such a provision, or have such implied therein, else the original chartering Grand Lodge, with the concurrence of its subordinates, would thereby have the power forever to prevent the formation of any other exclusively sovereign

Grand Lodge, or only such as they should see fit to allow to be established; all which is contrary to the inherent and indefeasible right of the craft.

"The Grand Lodge of England has recently interchanged Grand Representatives with the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, U. S. A., and the fact is properly heralded on both sides of the Atlantic, and especially in England, as an important and significant masonic event. Now, the Grand Lodge of England has entered into these important fraternal interjurisdictional relations with the Grand Lodge of 'the Empire State,' from the mere fact, as no mean authority has intimated, that there are no lodges of her obedience within the territorial limits of that Grand Body, or she thereby acknowledges the M. W. the Grand Lodge of the Federal State of New York to be the peer of the M. W. the Grand Lodge of England, and hence lawfully entitled to exercise supreme craft masonic authority within her territorial jurisdiction. Now the Grand Lodge of the Federal State of New York fraternally acknowledges the Grand Lodge of the Federal Province of Quebec as her masonic sovereign peer, duly entitled to all the masonic Grand Lodge rights and prerogatives that she is herself, and hence what should be the relative position of England and Quebec? The answer is awaited.

"I deem it to be of the utmost importance that the craft in general, and especially in the British dependencies, be informed of the exact principles of interjurisdictional comity involved therein, as, in my opinion, the Grand Lodge of the State of New York could not rightfully, and would not as I think, accept recognition from, and interchange Grand Representatives with, any Grand Body on the principle first stated above. It also appears to me that there are Grand Lodges of other States in the American Union, with whom the Grand Lodge of England has declin-