

*dictional limits once confirmed over the territory assigned it, that it cannot be curtailed by any civil power, nor can its supremacy be infringed upon by other Grand Lodges, and its territory and power can only be altered by its own action in Grand Lodge assembled.*

We hold this to be the only safe rule of conduct between sovereign and independent bodies. Any other course is rebellion and anarchy.

As your Committee, and for the time being, your exponent through foreign correspondence, we have had but one course to adopt in this unpleasant difficulty, viz. to decide, that under all the circumstances of the case, the Grand Lodge of Canada is the Supreme Masonic Authority over the territory assigned it, for the past fourteen years, which jurisdiction she has refused to yield; therefore, a rival power within her limits cannot be considered by us in any other light than an illegal and clandestine power. In using these terms, we do so purely in a technical and legal sense, and not with any personal or unfriendly motives.

We will first state briefly the case presented in a territorial point of view.

It is well known that the various Canadian Provinces have been aggregated into what is known as the "Dominion of Canada," and in the organization, certain provinces were divided, among them the Province of Canada, which was divided into two districts, provinces or states (or whatever they may be called) named respectively "Ontario" and "Quebec." The Grand Lodge had no particular "East," but it was principally located in the present confines of "Quebec" however, that makes no difference, as the power and authority of a Grand Lodge are not determined by the mere locality of holding its Annual Communications.

This division having been made by the parliament, it was held by certain Lodges in Quebec that the authority of the Grand Lodge had ceased over them. Such must have been their conclusion, for they acted without its authority or consent, and if they recognized its authority, then they are in a state of rebellion. If it was true that the division of the province destroyed the power of the Grand Lodge over that part now called Quebec, then it must have also destroyed its power over that now called Ontario, for its power over both was identical.

If this theory is true, then the division or segregation of any part of a state, however small, would destroy the Grand Lodge entirely, and a new one would have to be formed every time a single county was taken out or added to, for the *quantity* of land has no bearing whatever upon the subject, it being solely one of principle involved in Grand Lodge integrity. This brings us now to the point whether the jurisdictional limits of a Grand Lodge are or are not affected by political subdivisions. For one we answer most emphatically, "No."

We hold that there is no legislative power in this or any other commonwealth, or even in the United States itself, which can legally pass any ordinance saying to the Grand Lodge of Missouri, that her boundaries and power over her Lodges shall be changed. We say this because we dare to presume that the members of every Lodge in her jurisdiction are obedient to their solemn covenants, and will obey the conditions of their Charters.

If a legislature may not do this directly, how much less can it do it indirectly? When the Dominion of Canada divided the provinces, it