

Two years subsequently, the Grand Lodge of Quebec appeals to the Grand Lodge of Illinois, alleging that the sovereign rights to which we had declared her fully entitled, had been violated by a sister Grand Lodge. The then Grand Master felt that in view of the action of our Grand Lodge above referred to, the appeal of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, could not in justice be passed unnoticed, and if considered, the Grand Lodge of Illinois must either reconsider its former declarations or take such action as would demonstrate its good faith in an attempt to support a well settled principle of masonic usage. In choosing the latter course, be assured, M. W. Sir, that there was no intention on the part of the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge to dictate to the M. W. Grand Lodge of Canada, nor to utter unfriendly sentiments, but in the most fraternal manner to show the masonic world that the masons of Illinois desired to be consistent. If in so doing we have violated masonic comity, I shall be very glad upon a proper showing to lend my humble aid in making all due reparation of an error unintentionally committed, and seek to restore our friendly and fraternal relations. I deem it proper to say this much for myself, because my official action was not based upon any personal knowledge of whether the Grand Lodge of Canada is justified in refusing to recede from her position towards the Grand Lodge of Quebec, nor whether the organization and recognition of the latter body is a violation of the jurisdictional rights of the Grand Lodge of Canada. These questions appeared to me to have been previously determined by the Grand Lodge of Illinois, and by many others in the United States. My official action was based upon the record as I found it, under the impression that I was performing a simple duty in behalf of an important principle of intermasonic policy.

And right here, M. W. Sir, let me say, I desire to be relieved from any suspicion, that I have been actuated in my official course in this matter by any motive springing from the nominal relation of Representative of the Grand Lodge of Quebec near the Grand Lodge of Illinois, a position which I have the honor to hold, and a circumstance to which you refer. In conclusion permit me to say that I am sure our present Grand Master, M. W. J. A. Hawley, will regret that you have deemed it necessary to tender your resignation as our Grand Representative, in which regret I must be permitted to join. However, all of us, at times, must sacrifice personal feelings to the stern demands of official duty.

Relying upon the benign influences of Freemasonry to triumph over the passions and prejudices of the hour, and finally to bring about an amicable adjustment of the, I trust, temporary differences existing, and re-establish a full measure of fraternal affection between all concerned, and with assurances of personal esteem and fraternal respect, I have the honor to be

Very truly and fraternally your's,

DAVID C. CREGIER,  
P. G. M., Illinois.

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GRAND LODGE OF CANADA,  
OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER.

SIMCOE, ONT., 5th APRIL, 1873.

M. W. SIR AND DEAR BROTHER,—Your letter of the 1st inst., reached me this morning and I hasten to reciprocate, not only the sentiment