

advocating at the proper place the cause of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and now to heap such blame upon our Grand Lodge is, to say the least, an unjust and unwarranted accusation.

But apart from all this, what in reality can reasonably be expected from the Grand Lodge of Canada in regard to that difficulty? This is a question I have frequently asked myself, for I have no hesitation in saying that I deeply sympathize with our Quebec brethren, and should be gladly willing to help them and to see the Grand Lodge of Canada help them, were it possible to do so without either sacrificing our honor or precipitating a rupture of the friendly intercourse so happily existing between the Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge of Canada, which the circumstances do not warrant.

Let us again briefly examine our position from the time the Grand Lodge of England recognized our Grand Lodge under the conditions above stated.

We find that the Grand Lodge of Canada had declared the St. Lawrence Lodge to be an irregular body, and that the Grand Lodge of England had declared it to be in good standing; and that after some correspondence upon the subject, Grand Master Harington on the 18th October, 1862, issued a manifesto to all the Masons around the globe, wherein he openly regrets having omitted to inform himself sufficiently upon that subject, and concedes that the Grand Lodge of England was in the right; and in a subsequent document, dated 19th December, 1862, Grand Master Harington declares that there is no doubt that lodges St. Paul, No. 514, and St. Lawrence, No. 923, in Montreal, are *bona fide* English lodges, and as such are recognized by the Grand Lodge of Canada.

On the 31st October, 1862, Grand Master Harington issues a similar manifesto to all the Masons around the globe, in which he admits that St. John's Lodge, No. 229, Registry of Ireland, holden at London, C. W., is in good standing with the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and as such entitled to recognition by the Grand Lodge of Canada.

The committee on the Grand Master's address state in their report that the correspondence and the action taken by the "M. W. Grand Master with reference to lodges claiming affiliation with the Grand Lodge of England, is most cordially approved," and Grand Lodge received and unanimously adopted that report.

In Grand Master Harington's address, 13th July, 1864, that high officer refers to the existing difficulty with reference to St. George Lodge, No. 543, E. R., and leaves it for Grand Lodge to decide the matter. And then adds: "It was a great mistake we made in not determining a fixed date when there must be exclusive jurisdiction

throughout Canada, and serving a formal notice to that effect on the Grand Lodges having subordinates here, that these last might be numbered and registered and receive warrants from the Grand Lodge of Canada, or choose the alternative of dissolving. It was the natural sequence to the events occurring in and since 1855, and no compromise should have been entered into by us except as to time." And subsequently adds, "I believe no dishonor could attach to the Grand Lodge of Canada if, considering the *practical trouble* we have had to encounter, we were even now to issue a notification with respect to these lodges, such as we should have done when we took our place amongst the other Grand Lodges of Freemasonry."

The committee on the Grand Master's address reports to Grand Lodge: "That the Board is of opinion that this Grand Lodge must now most cheerfully recognize St. George Lodge, notwithstanding the grounds they had previously understood as existing against such recognition." And further on they say: "Mindful as we are that the recognition of this Grand Lodge by the Grand Lodge of England was accepted on terms providing for the continuance of this authority in certain specified cases, and notwithstanding the objections inherent to that system, we cannot at present see any course which, with honor, is now open to this Grand Lodge to change the well understood arrangement."

And Grand Lodge received and unanimously approved of that report.

Thus we see that the same three lodges in Montreal, about which the difficulty now exists between Quebec and England, were as late as 1864 (nine years after the formation of our Grand Lodge) again recognized by the Grand Lodge of Canada, and remained to be so when the Grand Lodge of Quebec in 1874 was recognized by the Grand Lodge of Canada, and when those three lodges were cut off from the territorial jurisdiction of the latter.

And, when again I ask myself the question, What in reality can reasonably be expected from the Grand Lodge of Canada in regard to that difficulty? I must confess that under existing circumstances nothing but an expression of sympathy; but no active interference can reasonably be expected.

And if we, in addition to the well understood arrangement between the Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge of Canada, take into consideration the resolution of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, adopted upon the solemn advice of her Grand Master, J. H. Graham, in his valedictory address, "not to take any special legislative action on this subject at the present communication, (1st February, 1883), but in the still further exercise of the true