

counsel. We allude, of course, to the Grand Lodges of New South Wales and Victoria, both formed by representatives of lodges summoned to meet in convention for that purpose, to which *all* the lodges were invited to send delegates. In neither case was the action taken till after the most mature deliberation,—for over twenty years both colonies had been agitating the question, and at last New South Wales, some seven years ago, broke the chain, and now has over forty lodges on her roll, with a membership of over two thousand, and the finest Masonic Temple in Australia, whilst twenty Grand Lodges, including every one in the Dominion except Quebec, have accorded her recognition. The Grand Lodge of Victoria was only organized in July, but the leading Masons of the colony have allied themselves with her, although the district deputies of the three constitutions, England, Ireland and Scotland, hurled their usual anathemas at her, suspending and threatening expulsion to all who even discussed the question in their lodges, and this is FREEMASONRY.

The Grand Lodge of Quebec, then, at this, her fifteenth annual communication, has to decide the vital question, whether she will support these her sister Colonial Grand Lodges, fighting side by side with her for colonial Masonic independence, or actually advocate that English Masonic tyranny in a sister jurisdiction under which she herself so severely suffered since 1869. We are aware that the Grand Lodge of Quebec has heretofore advocated the doctrine that a Grand Lodge should be organized by the representatives of a majority of

the lodges within its jurisdiction. As a rule, we do not question the advisability of such being the case; but there is no rule without an exception, and when, after years of anxious thought, it was deemed advisable by the *working Masons* of the Antipodes, and when they have proved their earnestness and enthusiasm, and when the fear of suspension and expulsion possessed terrors for them that it would not do to the brethren of this country, who had before gone through that disgraceful system of tactics, we must regard this point as a mere side issue in comparison with the vast importance of uniting Colonial Masonic interests. It is the only way to secure the respect of foreign Masonic powers, and we therefore urge upon our brethren of the sister Province not to hesitate in doing justice to the Grand Lodges of New South Wales and Victoria.

This session, as we before said, will consequently be one of the most important ever held by the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and will be watched with the deepest interest by its many friends and admirers, and we might add with anxiety by those inimical to its interests.

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THE annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba will be held on the second Wednesday in February, when business of importance will be transacted.

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WE deeply regret to learn of the serious illness of our old and esteemed friend, M. W. Bro. James Seymour, P. G. M. of the Grand Lodge of Canada, who is suffering from paralysis. We hope to hear of his speedy recovery.