

Lodges under their control in America, Asia, Africa, Australasia, and wherever the British flag rules.

The Grand Lodge of Hamburg invades the territorial jurisdiction of New York; every Grand Lodge in the United States holds her Lodges established here to be clandestine, and all recognition of Hamburg is virtually inhibited. Why? Because there is a supreme and sovereign Grand Lodge in New York. It is asserted that the organization of the Africans is as regular as that of any of the Americans. Suppose that to be so; suppose their work to be exactly like ours; suppose them every way worthy; the very principle upon which they act is the same as in the case of Hamburg, to wit: occupation of organized Grand Lodge territory, the invasion of Grand Lodge sovereignty.

2. Where there is no Grand Lodge existing under a supreme government, as in Turkey, all the Grand Lodges of the world have concurrent jurisdiction, and may establish and govern Lodges there. But when three or more Lodges form a Grand lodge, severance is complete, its jurisdiction absolute, and all other jurisdiction terminates.

Massachusetts establishes lodges in China, South America, and elsewhere; so do the Grand Lodges of England, France, Ireland, Prussia or Scotland, because there are no Grand Lodges in existence where these lodges are formed.

3. There is nothing in the history of Masonry in the United States, analogous to Masonic affairs in Canada, as we will now endeavor to show.

When the independence of the thirteen colonies was acknowledged, Masonry was in an unsettled condition; the Grand Lodges in the colonies were provincial, and most of the Lodges were under the direct government of the home Grand Lodges, and they even mostly British. There had never been any federation government in the colonies, as in Canada, and with political independence came Masonic independence also. So soon as there were Lodges enough, Grand Lodges were formed in each of the colonies, then changed by act of Congress to States. Each State Grand Lodge held exclusive jurisdiction over its own territory. In any State or territory where no Grand Lodge existed, the universal rule has been, that jurisdiction is common to all the Grand Lodges in the United States; that is, each one could establish and govern its own Lodges. The government of the United States is exclusive only over the District of Columbia and unorganized territories. The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia derives no superiority from this fact; she, with all the territorial Grand Lodges, stands on a level with all others. It may be asked if she does not exercise a superior influence by virtue of her central and governmental position? By no means. Her territory is small, her Lodges necessarily few, her population fluctuating, and she does not occupy a position equal to that of an organized territory with a governor, legislature and courts, for she is simply governed by the States, aggregated in Congress.

Whenever a State or territorial government exists, the right to form a Grand Lodge follows, whenever there are enough Lodges to do so. When the Province of Maine was erected into a State, she formed a Grand Lodge. Until then she was governed by Massachusetts. When Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin were ceded by Vir-