

THE SO-CALLED GRAND LODGE OF ONTARIO.

As this so-called Grand Lodge still continues to exist in our jurisdiction, and claims to be gradually increasing in numbers, would it not be well for the Grand Lodge of Canada, at its next annual session, to take the matter up and settle it once and forever? So long as these Ontario Masons are working in our midst, they are doing injury to the craft in general, and imposing upon the unwary, who pay their fees, and fancy that, having received certain degrees for the same, they are entitled to all the privileges of Masonry-universal; whereas, they find themselves unrecognized by every Grand Lodge in the world. What is more: a man thus innocently taking these degrees, finds himself excluded from all the higher degrees, including the Royal Arch, Templar, Scottish, and Memphis Rites. The reason is obvious: A Mason must be in good standing, before he can belong to any of the higher bodies; and as no Grand Lodge in the United States or Canada recognize this so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario as legitimate, it necessarily follows that its members cannot be recognized as Masons at all, and any Mason under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada associating in any Masonic body, with such men, as Masons, renders himself liable to suspension or expulsion.

Now, although there never was, or can be, any excuse for the formation of the so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario, we nevertheless think it would be better to forget and forgive. The longer the schism exists, the wider

becomes the breach. What object can there be in allowing this state of affairs to continue? We want "peace with honor," and it can be obtained now. The Ontario Masons know the unfortunate position in which they are placed, and if proper overtures were made to them, would not hesitate to "come in." Of course, both parties must yield somewhat; but better, far better, to compromise, than to allow this anomalous and unsatisfactory state of affairs to continue longer.

Referring to the bogus Grand Lodge of Ontario, we find the following in the Foreign Correspondence, in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia:—

"The address of the Grand Master, like all which have emanated from brother Spry, shows his ability as a Grand Master to rule and govern the craft understandingly and efficiently. He refers very feelingly to the death of the Duke of Albany.

"He refers to the clandestine body styling itself the Grand Lodge of Ontario. The lodges holding charters from it, are initiating Masons yet, in the Province of Ontario. Why have not those who inaugurated that concern ceased their efforts, since they have been denounced by every Grand Lodge in this country? However long they may continue to deceive their unwary friends, it is very certain not one of them can ever be admitted into any regular lodge anywhere. But such a course has ever been the result of those ambitious movements of men, who, desirous of progressing in Masonry faster than their real merits deserve, have taken such irregular courses to advance themselves beyond their just deserts. It was such a movement as this which brought into existence the second Grand Lodge in England, from 1788 until 1813, when, unfortunately, a very dangerous precedent was set up, and it was taken into union with the Grand Lodge. When we look carefully at the history of Masonry in Europe, we find that just such movements subsequently produced all the discord that ever existed among Masonic bodies of all the rites. The difficulties which have existed in the United States, in all the various rites, have invariably sprung up in consequence of