

they are free of the books of the lodge before such new lodge can be lawfully constituted.

By this severe, and as we believe, unjust edict, 70,000 masons in New York and 15,000 in Connecticut, among whom have ever existed the most friendly and fraternal relations, are thus placed at a perpetual distance, and the great work of our ancient fraternity sadly impeded. By it, brethren hailing from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut and residing in that jurisdiction, are prevented from enjoying their masonic privileges. By it, for a mere difference of opinion on a question of masonic law, and without a pretence of even discourtesy towards our sister Grand Lodge, we are placed under the same ban by the Grand Lodge of New York, as the Grand Orient of France, which has struck out the most vital landmark of free masonry, and as the Grand Lodge of Hamburg, which has defiantly planted and still maintains lodges in the State of New York. In view of all this, let us not indulge in harsh words or severe criticisms, but rather let us cherish the kindest fraternal regard for our brethren of New York, and faithfully perform our masonic obligations towards them. Let us manifest to the world that the cords of affection and duty which bind masons of Connecticut to the ancient fraternity, are too strong to be broken by the angry, unprovoked blow of even a brother, and let us labor to hasten the time when the true spirit of our order shall so fill all hearts that interdictory edicts shall no more be resorted to as remedy for unimportant cases of grievance between sister jurisdictions. Let us continue to hope and believe that a returning sense of justice and the hallowed remembrance of our former friendship may lead our sister Grand Lodge to quickly and cheerfully rescind said edict and accept our extended hand in friendship and brotherly love.

NEW YORK.—The Grand Master says: As you are aware, under the Grand Mastership of M. W. Charles Roome, after faithfully endeavoring to obtain an adjustment of this difficulty, he severed official intercourse with the Grand Lodge of Connecticut; and on his presentation of the matter to the Grand Lodge at its last annual communication, it was resolved to suspend all masonic intercourse between the masons of New York State and all brethren under the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

It was also proposed by the same resolutions to submit the matter in dispute to arbitration, and the Grand Master was authorized to respond to any application which might be made to him from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut for said purpose, and to vacate the edict if any settlement could be effected.

There has been no occasion for the exercise of this discretion by the Grand Master, from the fact that the Grand Lodge of Connecticut will not consider the subject of arbitration until the edict of non-intercourse is removed.

While I do not wish to be understood as in any degree offering an apology for the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, yet it seems to me, brethren, that if we honestly desire a settlement of this difficulty, and of that there is no question, we must admit that although we consider our endeavors in the past have not received that consideration to which they were entitled, yet by the edict of non-intercourse we have virtually placed ourselves in a position which gives the Grand Lodge of Connecticut an excuse, if they choose so to regard it, for taking the ground that we should have proposed arbitration before resorting to the extreme measure of a severance of all masonic intercourse.