

"THE GRAND ORIENT OF MOROCCO."

"We print elsewhere," says the London 'Freemason,' "a long letter from Bro. Patterson complaining of our remarks anent certain proceedings in Morocco. We pass over much that is very irrelevant and perfectly beside the question, in order clearly and temperately to confine ourselves to the points at issue. In the 'Freemason' of March 25th, at page 171, appeared some Masonic tidings under the heading "Freemasonry in Morocco," which naturally attracted some attention, as they seemed to us very peculiar in form and very serious in precedent. The views we then propounded are, we apprehend, the views of all thoughtful English Masons on the subject, as the action of Bro. Patterson appears to us utterly outside of Freemasonry, and impossible to justify on any ground whatever. It seems that the attention of the Grand Master of Manitoba was called, from England, to the fact that he had chartered a lodge in occupied territory, and the Grand Secretary of Manitoba then wrote to say that the lodge so chartered to meet temporarily in Gibraltar (occupied territory), was to be at once transferred to Morocco. It seems, too, that the Grand Master said in reply that he did not know Gibraltar was "occupied territory," as territory where there are more than one Grand Lodge in jurisdiction is considered in North America "unoccupied territory." Gibraltar, a dependency of England, was occupied by a Provincial Grand Lodge of Andalusia, under the Grand Lodge of England; in 1781, and though

some years back that body became a District Grand Lodge of Gibraltar, it is practically one and the same body. And then what is the next step? The lodge, Al Moghreb al Aksa, ordered to be transferred to Morocco, is constituted, not by Bro. Patterson as the consecrating officer commissioned by the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, but by a Territorial Grand Lodge—an occasional Grand Lodge—and the body thus formed was called first the Territorial Grand Lodge of Morocco, and then the Grand Orient of Morocco and Dependencies. What we wish to know is, how and by what authority this so-called Grand Body was formed at all. What does this expression mean? What are the dependencies of Morocco? For that it is an utterly illegal body is perfectly clear. The Special Deputy Grand Master can have no authority but what he obtains from his Grand Master, and in Manitoba, and although under authority from his Grand Master he can aid in constituting a lodge, it is patent he cannot, in any sense or shape, constitute a Grand Lodge. If there be one thing clearer than another in American Masonic proceedings, it is that the Grand Lodge is formed from lodges. We do not dispute the right of the Grand Master of Manitoba to grant a warrant for the lodge in Morocco, clearly unoccupied, if the civil authorities permit the Masonic lodges to meet; but we dispute his claim to form a "Territorial" Grand Lodge out of nothing, except, we presume, the "eternal fitness of things," as represented by our worthy brother, Bro. Patterson. Had the Grand Master of Manitoba granted a warrant to a lodge at Tangier, then