

2. That "time-immemorial" Mark lodges existed in Canada, which have the right to be recognized, or which it is lawful to recognize, as regular bodies.

3. That, if any such existed, they could surrender their authority to the Grand Mark Lodge, and thereby authorize it to grant charters to them and maintain jurisdiction over them.

On the contrary, it is Masonic law on this continent, that if such lodges existed, they passed under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Canada, when it was formed in 1857, and if they still continued to exist in 1876, they then passed under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Quebec.

4. That, inasmuch as English Craft Lodges, and English Chapters, exist in the Province of Quebec, the Grand Mark Lodge has the right to give facilities to such Masons to receive the degree, which is not conferred or recognized by the Chapter.

This is met by the propositions that there are no Chapters or Lodges in Quebec, over which the Grand Chapter or Grand Lodge of England has any lawful jurisdiction:

That if there are, the Chapters in Quebec are open to the members of such lodges, and are only the sources from which they can lawfully obtain the degree:

That as neither the Grand Lodge, nor the Grand Chapter of England have, or claim, any right under the reservation, by virtue of which they claim to maintain jurisdiction over existing bodies in Quebec to issue charters for new bodies, those reservations, if they give any rights to the Grand Mark Lodge, give it no larger rights than they possess.

And finally, they insist that the doctrine, that the nationality of candidates gives jurisdiction, is in direct conflict with the doctrine of territorial jurisdiction, and most dangerous to the peace of the Masonic world: the principle would justify the issuing of charters by any of the Grand

Bodies in England, to English residents in any State or Province in North America: and while we give full credit to the sincerity of the officers of the Grand Mark Lodge, in their declaration that they have no intention of interfering in the United States, yet, if the principle shall be settled or admitted, it will not be many years before it will be carried into practice.

A discussion of the legality of a body under the civil law, is wholly out of place in Masonry. The Masonic status of a body must be determined by Masonic law, as long as that body exists. When it ceases to exist, whether by force of Masonic law or civil law, it has no status: but until then, no other than the Masonic law can be invoked.

There is one consideration which, we confess, we are surprised to find did not occur to our brethren of the Grand Mark Lodge, and control their action in this matter. The Grand Lodge of England, and the Grand Chapter of England, do not recognize the Grand Mark Lodge, but solemnly hold that it is outside the pale of legitimate Masonry. It was, therefore, under no obligation to take their side in a contest, much less force itself into a contest in which they are engaged, as their ally. The Grand Chapter of Scotland not only does not recognize the Grand Mark Lodge, but invades its jurisdiction, precisely as that has the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Quebec. So that, with the exception of the Grand Chapter of Ireland, all the Grand Chapters which do recognize the Grand Mark Lodge, are the North American Grand Chapters. All those Grand Chapters hold the doctrine of territorial jurisdiction maintained by the Grand Chapter of Quebec. Now, it seems to us that the Grand Mark Lodge ought, in the spirit of Masonic comity, to yield its views of Masonic law in deference to the unanimous voice of the American Grand Chapters, which are all the bodies