

"QUEBEC—THE CASE FAIRLY STATED."

We have received letters from several excellent and influential brethren of the Grand Lodge of Ontario—for each of whom we have a profound personal regard—friends of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, in which they express their disappointment, if not exactly their dissatisfaction, at the action taken by the Grand Lodge of Quebec, in regard to Lodges existing within its jurisdiction prior to its formation, as also in reference to the regularizing the entirely irregular Lodges formed by the Grand Lodge of Ontario, within the limits of the Grand Lodge of Quebec against all law and comity, and which so-called Lodges, whether with duplicate Warrants or not are, in reality, but little else than Masonic Freebooters acting against lawful authority; in fact, Masonic Pirates.

We view the Lodges so formed, as much clandestine Lodges as were the Lodges planted by Hamburg within the jurisdiction of New York and New Jersey, or those clandestine bodies attempted to be vitalized by the Grand Orient of France, within the territory of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana; and for such piratical acts, both Hamburg and the Grand Orient of France, have been placed without the pale of Freemasonry by every Grand Lodge in the United States, by the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and Grand Orient of Brazil.

If the Grand Lodge of Quebec was ever a *regularly constituted Grand Lodge*—and it has, in the short time of its existence, been acknowledged by twenty-four or twenty-five Grand Lodges, numbering more than three-fifths of the Masons in the United States to be such—then it *became such a body* at the time of its organization, when its officers were elected and installed; and from that moment, in accordance with the Masonic law and acknowledged usages, it became possessed *de facto* and *de jure* of the sole and exclusive Masonic sovereignty of the Province of Quebec; and all Masons, no matter of what degree, were, while under its jurisdiction, amenable to it for all their masonic acts, and subject to such penalties as might be ordained for contumacy.

The action had by the Grand Lodge of Quebec against the Lodges in her territory, at the time of its formation, and those illegally and unfraternally spawned there by the Grand Lodge of Ontario, after the former became a fixed fact, was as follows—at its annual communication in September last:

Whereas, the Grand Lodge of Quebec has been for the last two years the Supreme Masonic authority in and for the Province of Quebec, and has been recognized as such by twenty-three Sovereign Masonic Bodies; and whereas the Grand Lodge of Canada, in violation of the well-established principles of Grand Lodge supremacy, has persistently and repeatedly invaded, and continues to invade, the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge—therefore be it

*Resolved*, That this Grand Lodge re-assert her supremacy as the Sovereign Masonic authority in and for the Province of Quebec.

We ask in all candor and fairness, if any fault can be found with that preamble, which is undoubtedly true in every word, that the Grand Lodge of Quebec could do otherwise than to resolve to re-assert its supremacy in the Province, separated by the law of the land, from Ontario. Had it done otherwise, then would it have been no more than a *vissal* to that body, which had so "persistently and repeatedly invaded its territory?" The Grand Lodge of Quebec could not have demanded respect from its allies, and those who will shortly add to the number of its friends, had it done less. The body which does not respect itself is unworthy the respect of others.

The Grand Lodge of Quebec further

*Resolved*, That all acts of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in the formation of Lodges and the issuing of duplicate Warrants in this Province, since October 20, 1869, were and are hereby declared to be irregular, and an infringement of the rights of this Grand Lodge.

Could she do less? Did not the Grand Lodges of New York, Louisiana, and New Jersey, when their jurisdictions were invaded by Hamburg and France, do likewise; and have not all the Grand Lodges on the American Continent, *except the Grand Lodge of Ontario*, (Canada), sustained them in their action, and made common cause with them? Had Quebec done otherwise, we should have advocated the withdrawal of recognition from it, until she knew how to assert her sovereign rights.

It also

*Resolved* That the Grand Secretary be instructed to invite all Lodges that were in existence prior to October 20, 1869, in our territory, to affiliate with this Grand Lodge, with the same rights and privileges as if they the said Lodges, had assisted in the formation of this Grand Lodge.

That the Grand Master be authorized to proclaim at any time before the next