

I directed the Grand Secretary to reply as follows:—

“The Grand Lodge of Quebec, at her formation distinctly and emphatically declared ‘that more than one Grand Lodge cannot exist, either by themselves or by representative organizations, or otherwise exercise authority and jurisdiction *suo jure* within the same geographical and political boundaries, whether kingdom, state or other legislatively distinct territory or province.’ She has ever since adhered, and will continue to adhere to that doctrine, and without waver or hesitation. In view of this, she cannot accede to your request to grant a warrant to authorize a lodge to work in England, where a regularly organized Grand Lodge now exists. Notwithstanding the fact that England, so far as Quebec is concerned, has ignored this doctrine and principle, yet England’s persistency in wrong-doing would be no justification for Quebec to follow the bad example.

I do not doubt your endorsement of my refusal to create discord in England, neither do I anticipate that you will for an instant entertain any suggestion to tolerate an aggression on the sovereignty of the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

The Grand Master of Louisiana offered to mediate between England and Quebec. The following is England’s reply:—

UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND, }
 FREEMASONS HALL, }
 Great Queen street, London, W.C., }
 18th November, 1887. }

To the M. W. Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Louisiana.

M. W. SIR AND BROTHER,—I have received, and duly laid before the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, your letter of the 18th of July last, in which you transmit a copy of a resolution passed by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana last February, authorizing you to offer your mediation in the matter at issue be-

tween the Grand Lodge of England and that of Quebec.

In reply I am commanded to refer you to the correspondence which has taken place between the two bodies, which is given in full with the printed proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Quebec for some years past, and I am to explain that, as the situation still remains the same, the Grand Lodge of England cannot possibly change its attitude or alter its decision in the matter.

I am also directed to transmit to you copy of a report made to, and unanimously adopted by, the Grand Lodge of England on the 3rd March, 1886, relative to certain action taken by the Grand Lodge of Illinois on the matter in question, which will further show you that the views of the Grand Lodge of England are, and that they still continue to be the same as heretofore.

I have the honor to remain, M. W. Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

SHADWELL H. CLERK,
 Colonel, G. S. of England.

Thus England resents any interference. She declines friendly mediation. She says that she, and she alone, is the Masonic authority that cannot err. Serene in her adherence to a position manifestly injurious to Masonry in this Province, and totally opposed to Grand Lodge jurisdiction as understood on this continent, and so understood because harmonious intercourse between sister jurisdictions requires it. The Grand Lodge of England spurns all offers of Masonic settlement by way of mediation. She says in substance we must submit like cravens to her will, and consent to share our habitation with her. There can be no question as to the propriety of the course to be pursued by this Grand Lodge. Whatever differences of opinion there may have been as to the advisability of issue of edict of non-intercourse previous to its issue, and it must be admitted there were differences—not as to the