

SIMCOE, 10th March, 1873.

To R. W. Bro. ORLIN H. MINER, *Grand Secretary, Springfield, Ill.*

R. W. SIR AND BROTHER,—I this morning received a copy of the printed proceedings of the business transacted at the Grand Lodge of Illinois during their annual convocation in October last, on perusing which I observe that a resolution was adopted by your Grand Lodge expressing sentiments of a most unjustifiable and unfriendly character towards the Grand Lodge of Canada. In order to relieve your Grand Master from the discharge of a part of the duty imposed upon him by the resolution referred to, I lose no time in resigning the appointment which I have so long held as the Representative of your Grand Lodge to a Grand Body with which I am proud to be connected.

With reference to the threat of proclaiming non-intercourse with the adherents and members of the Grand Lodge of Canada, I have no hesitation in saying that neither threats nor edicts will ever induce the masons of this jurisdiction to recede from a position which they know to be masonically correct, and in saying so, I feel that I express the sentiments of every mason owing allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Canada.

You will please submit this letter at your earliest convenience to the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of Illinois for his information.

I am, &c., &c.,

WM. M. WILSON,  
Late Representative of Illinois to G. L. C.

CHICAGO, April 1st, 1873.

To HON. WM. M. WILSON, *Grand Master, F. & A. M. of Canada :*

DEAR SIR AND M. W. BROTHER,—I have been permitted to peruse your letter of the 10th ult., addressed to R. W. Bro. O. H. Miner, Grand Secretary, in which you refer to the action of the Grand Lodge of Illinois upon the differences existing between the M. W. Grand Lodge of Canada and that of Quebec as of "a most dictatorial and unfriendly character."

I trust a word from me upon this subject will not be regarded by you as an impertinent intrusion, indeed I should not presume to trespass upon your time, were it not for the opportunity afforded to briefly explain my official position in connection with the matter and the grounds upon which our Grand Lodge based its action. For myself let me assure you, that as an individual Mason I have never ceased to deprecate the estrangement of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Canada, and that of Quebec, nevertheless when called upon to act, my personal feelings have been outweighed by what I conceived to be official duty in the premises, being governed in my course by the action of my predecessor, and that of our Grand Lodge at the session of 1870. From the report of the proceedings of that year (page 26) we learn that "notwithstanding the most strenuous exertions of M. W. Bro. W. M. Wilson, and the "co-operation of other eminent masons, the Grand Lodge of Canada "has refused all compromise, &c.," in view of this, and upon the recommendation of the then Grand Master, the Grand Lodge of Illinois, at the same session, (page 72) proceeded in a formal manner to recognize the regularity of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, giving that body assurances of the fraternal co-operation of the masons of Illinois in maintaining her rights so far as might be consistent with propriety.