

quest as one only adopted after the gravest consideration, and when found to be absolutely necessary to meet the exigencies of their local circumstances; in granting it, graciously continue to regard the Canadian branch of the Order with Royal and Princely favors.

For myself, as holding my appointment until now, (when the Great Priory has unanimously elected me Great Prior of Canada *ad vitam*), under patent bearing the signature of Your Royal Highness,—while the course now taken, may, by your gracious permission absolve me from such immediate obligations of fealty as arose from its possession,—I trust I may be permitted to retain the same as a priceless mark of Royal favor, and to be ever preserved as such. The fervor of that fealty and allegiance to my Sovereign, and Her Royal House, which was the heritage of my birth as a British subject, ever glowing the more ardently as years increase, and only to cease when life itself ceases.

With profound respect, I have the honor to subscribe myself,
[SEAL.] Your Royal Highness' faithful and humble servant,
Signed,

W. J. B. MACLEOD MOORE, G. C. T.,
Great Prior, Canada.
Priorial House of the Great
Prior.

St. John's East, Prov. Quebec,
Canada.

21st December, 1883.

ADDRESS OF M. E. COMP. K. HASKINS,

Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of
Vermont.—Gr. Ch. of Quebec vs.
G. M. M. L. of England.

"The Grand Chapter of Quebec at that convocation, by a unanimous vote, accepted the recognition thus extended by us to them, and as an earnest of their due appreciation of our fraternal regard, our Excellent Grand Scribe, Companion William

Brinsmaid, was appointed as their representative near this Grand Chapter. The fraternal relations thus early established between the Grand Chapter of Quebec and our own has continued to the present time.

"The subject matter of this controversy is of exceedingly great importance, for in it is involved the sovereign rights and prerogatives of all Grand Chapters of Royal Arch Masons throughout the world. When a question of such moment is presented for consideration, no Grand Chapter has the right to occupy a position of neutrality. The voice of the Grand Chapter of Vermont should have no uncertain sound.

"The General Grand Chapter of the United States in their constitution, by an express provision, recognize as exclusively belonging to the several Chapters of Royal Arch Masons throughout their jurisdiction, and of right to be conferred therein, the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason.

"In my opinion, such a thing as a concurrent jurisdiction of the same degrees, within the same territorial boundaries, by two separate and distinct Grand Bodies, is totally inconsistent and without foundation.

"At the time of the creation of said Mark Lodges within the Province of Quebec, there had existed for many years, and did then exist, within said territory, a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons claiming and exercising the exclusive right to confer the degree of Mark Master Mason upon all Master Masons residing within that jurisdiction.

"In the light of the best Masonic authority obtainable, and by the uniform course of practice upon this continent so far as I have been able to learn, the right of any other Grand Body to take jurisdiction of any of the degrees of Masonry within the same territory in which there has previously been established a Grand Body claiming and exercising juris-