

have been appointed representatives during the past year. I have nominated M. E. Companion H. P. Deuel, our representative near the Grand Chapter of Nebraska, and R. E. Companion Charles A. Woodward near the Grand Chapter of Ohio, subject of course to your confirmation; and the names of R. E. Companion J. S. Bowen near the Grand Chapter of New York, and R. E. Comp. Brinsmaid near the Grand Chapter of Vermont have been submitted to me for approval.

I think of but one other subject, which I conceive it to be my duty to allude to. Last year I had to do so. I mean the unfortunate difficulty connected with Craft Masonry in the Province of Quebec, and which, it is greatly to be lamented, has not yet been satisfactorily terminated, as all true Masons must wish and pray for. Of course you all know to what my present allusion points, and this continued discord and state of misunderstanding is exercising a baneful influence on our Order. Royal Arch Masonry is indirectly affected by it, and it is well calculated to do, and is doing injury in many ways. That the Grand Lodge of Quebec is an accomplished fact it would be absurd to ignore. It has been unconditionally recognised by some twenty-three Grand Lodges already, and that other grand bodies will pursue a like course I entertain no doubt. This is not a question for Grand Chapters to discuss, but it is my duty to inform you that I received a very courteous and fraternal communication in my capacity of your Grand First Principal, from the M. W. Grand Master of Quebec, who is likewise a member of high standing in this Grand Chapter, notifying officially the existence of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and seeking for amicable and free intercourse, to which I replied in a similar spirit, and these letters are, of course, ready to be laid before you. I am quite without information from the Grand Lodge of Canada. I had given to me, from more than one quarter, clear testimony that bitter feelings were beginning to be engendered among our Royal Arch Masons, at Montreal especially, and that greatly to their discredit they were threatening to use, if not actually doing so, the ballot-box as an instrument of strife! This I was resolved to render nugatory if possible, so far as capitular masonry was concerned, and it was partly in consequence of this that I granted dispensations for the two new chapters in that city, the respective petitions coming to me from companions on the one part favorable and the other hostile to the Grand Lodge of Quebec. I believe I did right, and that I am justified by the result.

Of course, an address of this kind is not the document for the insertion of details—going before the outside world as it will do like its predecessors—and I would probably have been silent on the subject only that as the principle of having a Grand Lodge for each Province in the Dominion has, we all know, been a measure acknowledged and assented to, it really becomes simply a question of time, as to the formation of separate Grand Chapters, and when the limit for jurisdiction will be still more curtailed. It is the wisest course to look this contingency full in the face, and when that time does arrive, carry out the change in a truly Masonic and fraternal way—giving and receiving, bearing and forbearing, making mutual concessions if needful, and avoiding heartburnings and strife, scorning wordy warfare, but wishing instead God speed and prosperity to all concerned.

It is marvellous to me that any Royal Arch Mason can so far forget that (in my eyes) "*ne plus ultra*" obligation which he has voluntarily pledged himself to fulfil as a Master Mason, as to lose sight of the Five Points of Fellowship especially, and their full and entire significance, and more particularly when we call to mind that the Royal Arch is said to be the perfection of the Third Degree of Craft Masonry.

If but the half has been said in bitterness, that is reported to have been uttered, in consequence of the Quebec difficulty, which after all originated in a difference of opinion, it is a discredit to the parties using such language, and a scandal to Masonry—that is all I can say—and I thus record my conviction.

And now, in conclusion, allow me to thank you once more for your many marks of favor, and acts of kindness, and also for the long continued distinguished position you have placed me in. You have now to select fresh officers, and I shall not be sorry to be relieved from the duties attached to my high office. You have able members, who can, and will be pleased to attend to your wishes, and conduct Grand Chapter affairs, and, as I said last year, there is a laudable ambition and should have its reward. And now I finish with this prayer,—“May the Great Architect of the Universe grant continuous prosperity to the Grand Chapter, and bless and protect each and all of us. So mote it be.”

T. DOUGLAS HARRINGTON,
GRAND Z., &c.

Hamilton, 9th August, 1871

On motion the foregoing address was referred to the Executive Committee.