

If the Grand Chapter of Quebec was the aggressor, the case would be presented in a different light; but she is not; she has faithfully fulfilled her part of the compact; she has not yet so far forgotten herself as to threaten to bring the case before the world by a resort to the civil courts; she has not yet attempted the game of "bluff" by like threats against a presiding officer for protecting the Grand Body which he presides over; she has not yet treated with lofty (?) disdain fraternal communications addressed to her by her peers; her Grand Officers are true, courteous gentlemen, although not blessed (?) with lordly titles.

Quebec has, however, firmly taken the stand that her laws shall not be trampled upon with impunity by any Grand Body within her own jurisdiction. She, as well as the Grand Bodies of the United States, stand firmly committed to the dogma of exclusive Grand Lodge Sovereignty, and I can assure our English brothers that that dogma will be sustained, not only in the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Quebec, but in every jurisdiction in the United States.

The time for an idle badinage of words has passed. Iowa, Massachusetts, and New York—three of the largest of our jurisdictions—have spoken, and that, too, to the point. In order that our English brothers may not entertain the idea that the numerical strength of those jurisdictions is a bagatelle, I will simply state that the returns for 1883 show that they have three hundred and sixty-five subordinate chapters, with a membership of thirty thousand, two hundred and thirty-five.

Do not understand me to say that I object to a fraternal intercourse between our Grand Chapters and the Grand Lodge of M. M. M. of England, provided they abide by the terms of recognition granted them; but, when they disregard those terms, as they have, with both the General Grand

Chapter of the United States and the Grand Chapter of Quebec, I am strongly in favor of withdrawing that recognition until such time as they can fulfill their agreements.

The individual members of the Grand Lodge of M. M. M. of England and Wales, etc., must divest themselves of the idea that it is condescension, on their part, to be recognized by us; on the contrary, you knocked at the doors of the General Grand Chapter in 1874; it was denied you; you knocked again in 1877, and it was granted you by a bare majority of thirteen, and I can safely say, that with your record of the past year before us, that were the question to come up to-day, you would be denied admission by an overwhelming majority.

Now, my brother M. M. M., wherever situated, I have presented a few plain, uncolored facts, for your consideration; there are more in reserve.

The Grand Lodge of M. M. M. of England is clearly in the wrong; we know that they are, and they know it themselves; therefore, recall the charters issued by you in the Province of Quebec, fulfill your part of the contracts you knowingly and understandingly entered into, re-establish the fraternal intercourse that was broken by your own acts and be at peace with the whole Masonic world.

Fifty years ago in the early days of the Surrey (Lodge), 416, the conditions of Masonry were very different to what they are now, as brethren living at any distance from the place of meeting had to carry arms to defend themselves from the attacks of highwaymen."

The appeal of the Grand Orient of France for the re-establishment of fraternal relations with other Grand bodies, is based solely on the plea of universal brotherhood. It contains no reference to the recognition of a Supreme Being and is likely to prove unsuccessful.