

sively that the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland both uphold the theory. The following is a brief synopsis of his address:—

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE GRAND LODGE:—Assembled at this twelfth annual communication, it well becomes the Grand Lodge of Quebec devoutly to acknowledge the many favors hitherto vouchsafed to it the Great Architect of the Universe, and fervently to implore His guidance in the years to come. Since we last met, V. W. Bro. W. H. Van Vleit, of Lacolle, P. Q., has been called from labor to rest. He was an intelligent and useful citizen and a zealous Freemason. His loss is deeply felt both by the community at large and by the Craft. The sad information has just reached me, through R. W. Bro. Geo. O. Tyler, of Yamachiche (Three Rivers) of the death, from fever and ague, on the 10th day of December, 1879, of our R. W. Bro. Samuel McClung, formerly of Three Rivers, but for some years a resident of Kingston, Island of Jamaica, West Indies, whither he had gone with his family, seeking for the restoration of his enfeebled health. R. W. Bro. McClung was the first Grand Registrar of this Grand Body. He was a worthy man, a consistent and earnest Freemason, and a faithful friend of the Grand Lodge of Quebec. Quebec mourns with our sister Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia in the loss by death of her worthy and highly esteemed Grand Master, M. W. Bro. A. F. Crowe; with Vermont, in the loss of M. W. Bro. L. B. Englesby, the talented Grand Representative of Quebec; with the Grand Lodge of British Columbia by the decease of R. W. Bro. Thompson, the zealous Grand Representative of Quebec near that Grand Body; and with our Southern sister, the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, in the loss of R. W. Bro. Geo. Stewart Blackie, M. D., one of the most gifted of her adopted sons. May they rest in peace. I beg to recommend that memorial pages in our proceedings be dedicated to their memory and to that of others whose loss the brethren in any part of our jurisdiction may have been called upon to mourn. During the past year, the following brethren have been commissioned as our Grand Representatives near their respective Grand Lodges, viz:—R. W. Bro. A. A. Hill, near Vermont; R. W. Bro. W. S. McLellan, near Nevada; R. W. Bro. R. J. Patty, near Mississippi; and R. W. Bro. E. W. Brunsden, near Rhode Island. I have granted a dispensation to establish a new Lodge at Lachine, called the St. Louis. Its institution has been delayed somewhat on account of unexpected difficulties regarding their hall, which it is anticipated will shortly be overcome.

The address then proceeded to express

sympathy with the Grand Lodge of New Mexico in her constitutional contention with the mother Grand Lodge of Missouri, which, as the Grand Master maintained, was persisting in violating the sovereign rights of New Mexico. He also called attention to the policy of the Craft in Ontario, of continuing to call their Grand Body, the "Grand Lodge of Canada," though now her jurisdiction extended only over the Province of Ontario.

Dr. Graham then continued:—In rendering to you for the eighth time an account of my stewardship as Grand Master, it seems fitting to express to you my due appreciation of the distinguished honor thus frequently conferred upon me by your unsolicited and voluntary suffrages, and also to call to mind a few of the more salient points of our brief, eventful history. The "severance" of the territory of "Canada," by the consent and co-operation of the Local and Imperial Governments, into the two Provinces of "Ontario" and "Quebec," and their Federation along with other B. N. A. Provinces, into the "Dominion of Canada," on July 1st, 1867, indirectly involved more questions of Masonic interest and importance than perhaps any other political event of modern times. For some years previous to the above mentioned events, the then impending circumstances had led me, and doubtless others, to make a minute and extended investigation of the historical facts and constitutional principles involved in and relating to, the formation, prerogatives and governance of Grand Lodges of Freemasons for the then past one hundred and fifty years, i. e., from 1867 to the establishment of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717. From the conclusions thus laboriously arrived at, the right and duty of the Craft in this Province, on and after July 1st, 1867, to form an independent Grand Lodge, lawfully entitled to hold and to exercise exclusive and undivided sovereign authority over all Lodges of Freemasons within the territory of Quebec, became an axiom in my Masonic faith. Many other brethren in the Province held the same opinion. Years, therefore, of considerate thought, careful study, and varied, peculiar experiences Providentially paved the way for the regular and auspicious formation of the Grand Lodge of Quebec on the 20th day of October, 1869, by the enlightened, zealous co-operation of a majority of the Lodges in the Province, including those of Canadian, English and Scottish constitution. An extended statement of our case and our appeal for recognition, support and the interchange of Grand Representatives were duly laid before the sister Grand Lodges of the world, and the early and favorable response thereto by so many learned Masonic jurists, and by so many of the Grand Lodges of the United States