

THE ENGLISH LODGES AT MONTREAL.

BY BRO. G. F., JUN'R.

We have written so much upon the subject of "the English lodges" at Montreal, denouncing their anomalous position, and insisting that the time was fast approaching when the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of Quebec would be forced to move in the matter and issue his edict, that we feel almost ashamed to say much more regarding them. This time, however, we think the Ontario brethren should have their feelings aroused and it is high time that the Grand Lodge of Canada (Ontario) should strengthen the hands of her sister Grand Lodge of Quebec; she let her fight with Scotland alone, never once entering her protest when she saw the Grand Lodge of Scotland invading the territory of the Grand Lodge of Quebec; she quietly sat through it all and never gave her a helping hand; she has been doing the same with regard to the English lodges, and now she is about to reap her reward.

We have again and again protested against this cold lukewarmness on the part of the Grand Lodge of Canada regarding these "foreign" lodges in a neighboring colonial jurisdiction. We all know how troublesome they were when they existed in Ontario, and surely we might have had a little sympathy with our Quebec brethren. But no! we sat with our hands folded, and never even urged upon the Grand Lodge of England the advisability of withdrawing the warrants of St Paul, St. George and St. Lawrence, and now we are reaping the reward of our cold

and callous behavior to our daughter of Quebec.

Months and years ago we pointed out that these lodges, not regarding any territorial jurisdictional rights, would accept material, rejected or otherwise, from any jurisdiction. Our words have apparently come true, as we learn from a contemporary that a candidate recently rejected in Toronto went down to Montreal and took his degrees in St. George's Lodge, English Register. A pretty state of affairs, and one which should not be tolerated for a single moment!

The question now arises, if united action should not be taken on the part of all the Grand Lodges in the Dominion, to protest against such outrages and to request the Grand Lodge of England to withdraw her warrants from these lodges that thus disturb the peace and harmony of Freemasonry in Canada. If the Grand Lodge of Canada (Ontario) is willing to permit these foreign Masonic bodies working under sufferance in Montreal to accept the rejected material of her lodges, she must indeed have lost all spirit, pride and honor. The time has now arrived when the Grand Lodge of Canada must move in this matter. It can no longer be postponed, and the matter at this moment concerns, as we always said it did, the Grand Lodges of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, &c., fully as much as it does that of Quebec.

The Grand Lodge of Colon and Cuba have accepted jurisdiction over the two Vera Cruz lodges, "Lumen" and "Obreros del Templo," as we learn from the Vera Cruz "Cadena de Union."