

~~As~~ The M. E. Grand Z of the Grand Chapter of Canada has issued his dispensation to certain Companions to hold a chapter, to be called the "Seymour Chapter" at Bradford, in the County of Simcoe; Comps. John W. H. Wilson to be first Principal Z; Horatio Gates Summers, second Principal H; and W. R. Jameson to be third Principal J. Under such excellent Companions the Chapter is certain to flourish.

AN IMPORTANT DECLARATION.

The Grand Orient of France has caused to be issued to all Grand Bodies with which it is in friendly communication, the following circular, which we translate from the original :

"VERY DEAR BRETHREN,—In its general assembly of the 25th July, the Grand Orient of France passed the following declaration :

"Freemasons under the jurisdiction of France, represented by their legal representatives at the Convention of 5869, affirm that the humanity of Masonry is outraged, when colour, race or religion, are sufficient to prevent a profane from being admitted to the family of Masonry."

"At the same meeting, the Assembly invited the Grand Master of the Order to bring this declaration to the notice of foreign masonic Powers, with the statement that the Grand Orient of France will withdraw from alliance with all masonic Powers which refuse to assent to this proposal.

"In conformity with this decision, Very Dear Brethren, I have the honour of calling your attention to this declaration. You will find in the Official Bulletin, which has already been sent to you the motives which have induced the Grand Orient of France thus to express itself, and the sentiments which have animated it in the circumstances.

"I feel assured that this declaration will not find one opponent among the Grand masonic Powers of the world, and that it will not deprive the Grand Orient of France of one single alliance. The principles which it proclaims—are they not, in fact, the fundamental principles of Masonry, and the natural result of its motto: Liberty, Equality, Fraternity?"

"I shall be glad to have the views of your Grand Lodge by the month of May, 1870, the period of our next general Assembly."

We find on reference to the *Bulletin du Grand Orient de France*, that the adoption of this circular was the occasion of a speech, which appears to have been very enthusiastically received, from Brother Poulle. The principal ground of this speech was a defence of the idea that neither color nor religion should suffice to exclude a candidate from the privileges of masonry. Referring to the protest of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, the speaker declared that their protest was not simply an act of impolicy and of aggression on their part, it was an act of injustice. He insisted the rights of negro lodges and of negro masons to recognition; and in very indignant terms he denounced any attempt to withhold such recognition.

This question of negro masons and Lodges is assuming increased importance in the United States, and is likely to lead, in some jurisdictions at least, to legislation on the subject. The position of the Grand Orient of France, even admitting the general principle which they lay down, and which no one in this jurisdiction, at least, would venture to dispute, is quite untenable. It is one thing to declare that neither