

The effect of these "Laws, Ordinances, and Regulations" here recited is this:—When the new treaty becomes operative, the safeguard of extra-territoriality is taken away from us, we come under Japanese law, upon Japanese soil; our Chapter must be closed, and our work stopped. It will result in all the charters granted by Supreme Councils and Grand Lodges at home to Subordinate Chapters and Lodges in Japan being rendered void and of no effect. Our meetings will be prohibited, our members dispersed, and no Masonic revenue will accrue from Japan.

We therefore urgently implore you to help us in our imminent peril and distress. We believe that the powerful influence of the Supreme Council cannot fail to obtain from the United States Government the relief which we need under this impending calamity. Ever since the first treaty between the United States and Japan—29th July, 1858—we have had (in virtue of exterritorial provisions, by which, though residing on the soil of Japan, all citizens of the great Republic were amenable only to U. S. Law) our privileges and rights maintained inviolate, with perfect freedom of holding our meetings undisturbed, as in the United States itself. This long immunity of thirty-six years will surely form a precedent, and enable the U. S. Government to add a clause to the projected treaty (or, in case said treaty be already signed, a protocol or note thereto) securing to us, and to all true, faithful and law abiding Freemasons, at least equal rights with those accorded to religious bodies by Article 1 of the New Treaty transcribed above.

Following out the further directions in the resolution, we have communicated with all the Lodges of Perfection, Chapters of Rose Croix, Councils of Kadosh, and Grand Consistories in Japan, who will one and all support our steps in this important matter.

Finally we pray you to take without delay all such action as may seem to you good and wise in the premises; and, on this 26th day of September, A. L., 5898, we subscribe our names with respectful esteem and fraternal greeting.

O. KEIL, Deputy.
J. DIACK, W. M.
A. PATTERSON, P. M.
J. T. GRIFFIN, S. W.
J. DAVIESON, Acting Secretary.