

A convention of Representatives of three private Lodges, duly authorized, and regularly assembled, may, without let or hindrance, form a Grand Lodge in and for the said Territory; but it has become a very generally accepted rule that a majority of the private Lodges situated therein should take part in said convention, or acquiesce in its action.

The consent of any Mother Grand Lodge, however desirable, is not essential or necessary; nor can any Grand Lodge, constitutionally interfere with, or in any way rightfully hinder, said private Lodges in the exercise of their inherent right to form a Grand Lodge of their own in such Legislatively distinct Territory, no matter what prior authority she may have exercised over them.

A Grand Lodge thus regularly formed in unoccupied or *discovered* Territory, possesses the inalienable right of exclusive jurisdiction over all Symbolic Lodges of Freemasons within said Territory; and no other Grand Lodge can lawfully form new private Lodges, or reconstruct old ones, from and after the formation of the new Grand Lodge;—and it is incumbent on any private Lodge, which through inadvertence or otherwise was not represented at the convention which formed the new Grand Lodge, to secure enrollment on its Registry at the earliest period practicable; and not only all private Lodges but all unaffiliated, or other individual Freemasons, official or other, resident or sojourning within her Territorial jurisdiction, are constitutionally amenable to her authority for any Masonic acts which are in contravention of her sovereignty.

Any arrangements which may have been entered into, prior to the formation of the new Grand Lodge, by any other Grand Bodies, anent the continuance of any Lodge according to its own will, under the authority of some other Grand Lodge, yet within the Territory of the newly-formed Grand Body, are contrary to the constitutions of the Fraternity, injurious to the unity, harmony and prosperity of the Craft, subversive of Grand Lodge Sovereignty, and consequently, of no binding force on the new Grand Body.

The enunciation of many other fundamental facts and principles of like importance will be found *in extenso* in our address of date Nov. 20, 1869, to the Grand Lodges of the world,—in the statement concerning the G. L. of Quebec, of date April 20, 1870—in Proceedings and other Documents, issued by this Grand Lodge, and especially in the able Reports of the Committees of Foreign Correspondence and Jurisprudence, of the many Grand Lodges which have recognized us, and in others which favor our cause,—also in the elaborate editorials and correspondence in nearly all the Masonic periodicals throughout the world, and in almost any reliable work on Masonic Jurisprudence.

The few articles, or addresses, which have appeared in opposition to the rightful claims of Quebec, have been refuted over and over again, and there is good reason to believe that at least some of their authors will recant their erroneous opinions at an early day, as some of the ablest Masons who had been misled by incorrect or insufficient information have heretofore done, to their own honor and to the good of the Craft.

DEATHS.

During the past year we have been called upon again and again, by most solemn admonitions, to regard the uncertainty of human life, the immutable certainty of death, and the vanity of all earthly pursuits.

M. W. Brother James Dean, Past Provincial Grand Master of Quebec and Three Rivers, and honorary P. G. M. of this Grand Lodge, is no more. He lived generally beloved; he died deeply and universally regretted. It is fitting that a memorial page of our printed proceedings be dedicated to the memory of this good man and eminent Mason.

Our venerable Brother Magoon, of Doric Lodge, Danville, and our Worthy Brother Andrew McKay Smith, of Victoria Lodge, Sherbrooke, have also passed to their rest since we last assembled in annual communication.

The removal by death of other Brethren will be suitably noticed by the District Deputy Grand Masters.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

On the morning of the 15th instant, I received from the Grand Secretary a document of date the 14th, and signed by M. W. Brother A. A. Stevenson, Chairman, and R. W. Brother Thomas White, jr. Secretary of a Committee of seven, appointed by a meeting of representatives of Lodges in this Province, as yet on the Registry of the Grand Lodge of "Canada," asking for a conference anent the existing state of Masonic affairs in this Province, and the restoration of harmony to the Craft therein.

On the evening of the same day I came to this city, and held a council of officers