

assume *entire control of masonry within its prescribed limits*, the political division in which it is located."

"The necessity for the laws grows out of the very nature of things, and the law is found in the constitution of every Grand Lodge. In our constitution it takes the following form :

"This Grand Lodge is the only source of authority, and exercises exclusive jurisdiction in all matters pertaining to Ancient Craft Masonry in the State of Illinois."

"Any organization, association, parties or persons professing to have any authority, powers or privileges in Ancient Craft Masonry, not derived from this Grand Lodge, within the State of Illinois, are declared to be clandestine, and all intercourse with, or recognition of them, or any of them, is prohibited."

"The right which the Grand Lodge of Illinois claims for itself, it recognizes as existing in its peers, declaring in the preamble to its constitution that *every* Grand Lodge is an absolute, independent body, possessing, within the landmarks, supreme legislative, executive, and judicial authority, and that it holds this principle to be indisputable.

"Not only is the assertion of this right found in the constitution of every Grand Lodge in this country, but every Grand Lodge in this country has formally reasserted it in other ways when current events have made a declaration on the subject necessary, from 1782, when the principle was laid down by the first independent Grand Lodge formed in America, down to the present hour. When the Grand Lodge of Hamburg planted lodges in New York, and when the Grand Orient of France so much as recognized a body that presumed to plant lodges in Louisiana that did not derive their powers from the Grand Lodge of that state, the Craft of America rose as one man against these infractions of a principle which necessity and usage had given the sanctity of law, and almost every American Grand Lodge at once severed all communications with the offending governing bodies.

"Within a few years three or four Grand Lodges have been prompted by supposed self-interest to do acts which were a practical denial of the law, but there is not one of them that has not, at the very moment when it was doing so, loudly proclaimed its devotion to the law itself.

"The Grand Lodge of New Mexico, recognized by the Grand Lodge of Illinois, in 1878, as being lawfully formed, found, upon its formation, within its rightful domain an organization, or association, professing to have authority, powers, and privileges in Ancient Craft Masonry, not derived from that Grand Lodge. This organization, known as Silver City Lodge, at Silver City, was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Missouri while New Mexico was still open territory; that is, before the Grand Lodge of New Mexico was formed. For nearly three years the Grand Lodge of new Mexico endeavored by persuasion to induce the members of this lodge to submit to the supreme authority of the jurisdiction wherein they resided, but finding all its efforts vain, in the exercise of its just discretion it ordered the charter of the lodge to be arrested and annulled.

"In spite of the annulling of the charter by the supreme authority of the jurisdiction, an act abundantly supported by precedent, a portion of the mem-