

it simply referred to Operative Masons, and if we follow one such ruling, we must follow *all*, and once more become artisans and "hod-carriers," as of old. The idea is so absurd, that we wonder any man of sense or learning tolerating this relic of the dark ages. It is a disgrace to a society professing to practice a science and to be progressive in its character.

THE QUEBEC DIFFICULTY.

The London *Freemason*, as usual, resorts to abuse and threats when the *Quebec difficulty* is referred to, and as we do not care about entering into the discussion upon such terms, we shall merely quote the article to show the *animus* with which the Masonic press of England is actuated towards Colonial Masons and Colonial Masonic Rights:—

"We call attention elsewhere to the long-expected 'Bull' of 'excommunication' issued by the Grand Lodge of Quebec against the loyal English Lodges in Canada. As a mere matter of Masonic form, it is utterly ridiculous, and "ipso facto" unworthy of notice, and thus it will be treated by our brethren in Canada, and doubtless by the Grand Lodge of England, though it is just possible it may pave the way for still further complications of a very serious kind. The Quebec brethren are relying, no doubt, both on the support of some irresponsible teachers, and the concurrence of the American Grand Lodges. The latter we greatly doubt for many reasons, and for this one especially, that this act of 'Boycotting' proceeds on a distinct repudiation of an honorable undertaking and a Masonic Concordat. When Canada separated from England, Masonically, as a term of recognition it undertook to preserve in all their full rights

those English Lodges which preferred to keep up, as Grand Master Wilson of Canada declared openly they had a right and reason to do, their allegiance to their warranting Grand Lodge. When the Grand Lodge of Quebec "swarmed" from Canada, it was at first excommunicated by that earlier body. When, by a joint committee, Quebec sought recognition from Canada, nothing was said about the illegality of the English Lodges; all that was advanced by Quebec was, as appears in their own 'Proceedings,' that they would seek by friendly negotiations to bring all lodges under one jurisdiction, an object which no one need blame, as it was not at all unreasonable. But after a little came a marked change over the 'spirit of their dream.' To whomsoever belongs the credit of stirring up all this bad feeling and dirt we know not; but we neither can say much for his Masonic principles, his kindly feelings, his good taste or his common sense. Everything seems to us to be 'personal,' and governed by patent motives of self interest and self-seeking. When the Grand Lodge of Quebec asked, after their little swarm and schism, for recognition by the Grand Lodge of England, the Grand Lodge of England offered them the same terms as were given to, and accepted by, the Grand Lodge of Canada. Then, for the first time, the 'cloven foot appeared,' and the 'mask' was thrown off. The legal position of the English Lodges was denied, and the act of the Grand Lodge of Canada blamed and repudiated. Of course, the Grand of England 'stood fast.' The Grand Lodge of Quebec, badly advised, as we said before, has gone on on a descending scale. It has crowned its devious and un-Masonic course by this stupendous act of folly, fatuity, and ingratitude. And here we leave a very painful episode, a very untoward page in our contemporary Masonic history, to the calmer appreciation of the thoughtful, the intelligent, the fair, and the just."