

even in appearance, bears any analogy to the present; but a moment's examination will show that the analogy is only apparent, not real. Virginia was formally one State; the only boundaries recognized in connection with it were those of the State itself; one system of laws prevailed over every part of it, and, in all respects, it formed one undivided whole. The separation, therefore, which took place for political reasons, was a separation defining entirely new boundaries, theretofore unheard of and unknown. No such result followed the Act of Confederation, in so far as Ontario and Quebec were concerned. The Provinces were originally distinct and separate Provinces, each having its own Government and Legislature. In 1840, when the Union took place, the boundaries were still recognized,—each Province retained its own laws, each was, in fact, by the very Act of Union, treated as a separate existence, and had guaranteed to it certain rights, as, for instance, those relating to representation in the Parliament of the Union, which, in fact, partook largely of the Federal character. Under the law, they were recognized as Canada East and Canada West; and every Session of Parliament saw more acts passed applicable to each distinctly and separately, than to the two as a Union.

Now, it was under these circumstances that the Grand Lodge of Canada was organized, with the assent and co-operation of the Lodges in the Province of Canada East, now Quebec. They might, acting upon the principle which they now so strongly assert—that masonic and political boundaries are co-terminous, have then established a separate Grand Lodge for that Province. They did not do so; on the contrary, acting in a wise spirit, they resolved that one Grand Lodge *for the two Provinces* was sufficient, and they joined in the formation of that Grand Lodge. But what is worthy of remark is, that, in the formation of this Grand Lodge, *they actually recognized the existence of two Provinces within its territorial jurisdiction*, and provided for a fair representation of masonic authority for each. Having done this, it is altogether too late in the day to claim that they can now establish an independent Grand Lodge in one of those Provinces, on the ground that it is “unoccupied Territory.” Confederation has not altered the boundaries of the Provinces in any way; it has not altered the laws, nor has it altered the fact of special legislation for each in relation to those laws. It simply, in view of the introduction of two other Provinces into the general Union, has provided local Legislatures, where may be enacted those local laws. But, on all questions which were before matters of common concern, the Parliament of Canada still treats. We are sure our brethren in Quebec cannot have sufficiently considered these points, when they presumed to treat Quebec as masonically unoccupied territory; and we can only hope that, upon a fair and full review of the case, they will retrace the steps they have taken, and return to their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Canada.