

QUEBEC AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The following has been issued in circular form:—

GRAND CHAPTER OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
December 10, 1884.

TO THE GRAND CHAPTER:—Since the last convocation of this Grand Chapter, there has been placed in the hands of your committee a printed communication from the Grand Secretary of the Mark Master Masons of England, &c., in which it is stated "that considerable misapprehension appears to exist on the part of a majority of the Grand Chapters of the United States," * * * "with reference to the Quebec difficulty."

The communication attempts to explain the position of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, for the purpose of setting the Grand Chapters of the United States right upon the question at issue between the two contending bodies. It admits the recognition of the Grand Chapter of Quebec by the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England, but "under a misapprehension as to its legality." This declaration that the Grand Lodge, when it recognized the Grand Chapter of Quebec, and exchanged representatives with that Grand Body, did not understand what it was doing is, certainly, a very serious reflection upon the intelligence and Masonic learning of the brethren composing that Grand Lodge. Your committee, however, are of the opinion that the members of the Grand Lodge did fully understand the case at the time the recognition was extended, for these brethren certainly would not sanction the recognition of a Grand Body without having first made due enquiry into the legality of its organization and constitution.

It is unjust to our English brethren, and your committee refrain from imputing to them, either ignor-

ance or negligence, when acting upon subjects of so much importance to the craft, whilst the communication of the Grand Secretary informs us that "it is altogether inaccurate to say that this Grand Lodge has issued warrant for Mark lodges since its recognition;" it also informs us that three Mark lodges "desired to place themselves under supreme English jurisdiction in the Mark Degree," and that this Grand Lodge has acknowledged them as regular by granting them what is practically a Warrant of Confirmation," and that at the present time the Mark lodges, meeting under the Warrants of Confirmation, are the only legal assembly of Mark Master Masons in the Province of Quebec."

If these three bodies were regular, as alleged, your committee fail to see the necessity for issuing the Warrants of Confirmation, for those warrants could give the lodges in question no more vitality than they already possessed. If, on the other hand, those lodges required additional authority to enable them to do legal work, and those Warrants of Confirmation gave the power, then the Grand Lodge in granting them, after the recognition, undoubtedly violated Masonic comity, and was guilty of unlawfully invading the jurisdiction of a recognized Sovereign Grand Body.

Inasmuch as this Grand Chapter, in common with other Grand Chapters,—as well as the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England,—have recognized the Grand Chapter of Quebec as the legally organized and constituted body having supreme and exclusive authority within the Province of Quebec, over the Royal Arch Degree, and the degrees included therein; your committee, therefore, submit, that the invasion by the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England, of the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Quebec, is unlawful and inexcusable, and your committee recommend that all Masonic intercourse between this