

Chapters of the United States who have given their sympathy and support in their troubles.

He then refers to his official actions in regard to the Grand Mark Masters Lodge of England, stating that he had communicated the suggestions of P. G. Z. Robinson, duly adopted at the last session, to R. W. Bro. Badgley, Prov. G. Master of England Mark Masons of this Province.

The suggestions related to the status which would be accorded to the Mark Masons, or their officers, in the event of the withdrawal of the English warrants.

In regard to this, Comp. Noyes says:—

"I cordially assured him of our desire for an amicable settlement in that, or any other way, but the basis must be the withdrawal of the warrants and authority of the English Grand Mark Lodge, and the recognition of our supremacy in this Province. In conclusion I wrote: 'I am prepared and desirous to carry out the proposition of the Grand Chapter before mentioned, or any other, within the limit above mentioned, that will satisfy our English brethren. The Grand Chapter of Quebec is prepared to go very far to obtain a peaceful settlement of the trouble, not inconsistent with its dignity, or incompatible with its views as to jurisdiction.'"

Nothing, we think, could be fairer, or more fraternal than the above, or more conciliatory. It stands out in bold contrast to the arrogant treatment to which our Quebec brethren have been subject. Notwithstanding the fraternal offer made above, we learn that the communication was treated with the most supreme contempt, not a line of reply being vouchsafed.

He then quotes, in full, the letter of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, expressive of their sympathy and cohesion, and offering the services of G. H. P. as mediator in the matter.

Replying to the letter, Comp. Noyes accepted the offer, subject to the approval of his Grand Chapter, and then he gives a resume of the attempts they had made for an amicable settlement of the difficulty, showing con-

clusively that they had offered all honorable concessions.

He then goes on to say:—

"I refer to these matters to show that there has always been on our part a desire for the restoration of peace and harmony, upon an honorable basis, upon the principle of our exclusive jurisdiction; but on the part of our English brethren, there has been a continual shifting of position, and a manifest determination to remain in our territory, whether right or wrong.

In your offer of mediation, you concede in our favor the principle of exclusive jurisdiction. You have admitted our pretensions, therefore I infer that in carrying your proposed mediation into effect, you intended to start upon the basis that we are right and the Grand Mark Lodge wrong, and from that seek to effect a reconciliation. We are willing and desirous for reconciliation, but it can only be effected with us, by the absolute withdrawal of the Mark Lodges under warrants from Grand Mark Lodge, by the repudiation, on the part of the Grand Mark Lodge, of all authority in this Province, and by the recognition of our authority therein. We can accept no compromise that will leave our territory common with the Grand Mark Lodge, or will permit of divided authority or allegiance therein. It is a vital matter with us, which we cannot waive even to obtain peace, harmony and reconciliation. The Grand Chapter of Quebec will never recede from that position, but will contend, earnestly and perpetually, for her conceded rights. In that position, she is loyally supported by nearly all the Grand Chapters on this continent, and to abandon that position, would be to act dishonorably towards them, and to waive all considerations of self-respect. We cannot do it.

"But if the mediation is directed towards the honorable retirement of the Grand Mark Lodge from our territory, with as little harm as possible to her *amour-propre*, and to the consideration of the future status of the English Mark brethren here, whether by alliance with us or disbandment, so far as this Province is concerned, we shall welcome the mediation, which, whether fruitful of good results or the reverse, we shall consider as having been made by your Grand Chapter, with the best fraternal intention."

After reading the above, we think there can be no doubt as to the determination of the Grand Z., to maintain the rights of Quebec.

Further on in the address, he refers to his labors with the Grand Master of Masons of Quebec, to have