

the presumption that it was equal in rights, duties and authority to the recognizing Grand bodies.

The principle of jurisdiction is not asserted here for the first time. It is of such universal acceptance that there can be no room for doubt that it is fully understood and acknowledged in England as elsewhere throughout the world. I am not disposed to insult the intelligence of your Grand Lodge officers by supposing that the granting of the Warrants to the Mark Master Lodges in Montreal is to be defended on the quibble—a quibble unworthy of the dignity of a Grand Lodge—that there is a distinction between Mark Master Lodges and Chapters in England and Wales. To admit such a quibble as a reason for such a policy would be to submit the integrity and preservation of this Grand Chapter to the mercy of a foreign jurisdiction. The next step might possibly be an invasion of our territory by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of England, on the pretence of providing Chapters for Mark Master Lodges, within our jurisdiction. There would be no limit to the policy of disintegration; nor when this Grand Chapter had, by submission, tacitly surrendered its possessory rights, could it again, without question, assert its claim to an independent territorial existence.

The Grand Chapter of Quebec has jurisdiction, and exclusive jurisdiction, over all the intermediate degrees of Royal Arch Masonry, as well the Mark Master as the other degrees between that and the Royal Arch, which it includes; and had such jurisdiction when recognized by your Grand Lodge and the sister Grand Chapters in the United States. It is a fair presumption that the principle prevails in England as elsewhere throughout the world, that the whole includes its parts. The correctness of that principle is the foundation of the exclusive jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Quebec as against the usurpation of your Grand Lodge. By its effect the exclusive right to govern and control

the Mark Master work in this Province is vested in the Grand Chapter of Quebec.

I am further informed that your Grand Lodge defends its usurpation on the ground that it was necessary to furnish Mark Master Lodges for Master Masons working under Warrants from the Grand Lodge of Master Masons of England.

The reason is so untenable, and contains so gross a reflection upon the subordinate Chapters of this Grand Chapter in the city of Montreal, that I am not fully prepared to believe that it has been urged in good faith by any one in authority in your Grand Lodge. It would be an assumption either that the subordinate Chapters are incompetent and incapable of performing their functions or had refused to extend the privileges of Capitular Masonry to the members of Blue Lodges working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England. In either case there was a plain duty, an honest course, prior to resorting to the harsh act of usurpation to be pursued by the Grand body taking such ground.

There has been no such conduct on the part of subordinate Chapters in Montreal or elsewhere in Quebec as to give the slightest color of reason for such an assumption. The Grand Chapter of Quebec and its subordinate Chapters have faithfully performed their respective duties toward the members of such Blue Lodges as desired advancement in Capitular Masonry; and in fact nearly all the M. Masons named in the Warrants granted received the M. M. and intermediate degrees in our subordinate Chapters.

In view of the circumstances and the position of which this Grand Chapter must take in defence of its rights and of its existence, it was perhaps unnecessary to allude to the position of the two Grand bodies towards one another or to furnish the reasons, however briefly given here, for the course which it is intended to