

Lodge or not. If by the same we could thus have the spectacle of a Grand Lodge recognizing a new Grand Lodge formed by three of its creatures, and yet in the same political jurisdiction maintaining a rival fourth lodge as its own with a large part of the territory from which the Grand Lodge is excluded. "Logic is Logic." But strange as would be the confusion resulting from such logic—such that our whole fabric might fall to ruin as did the "one horse shay,"—it rests upon an assumed principle that a lodge has anywhere any absolute territorial jurisdiction. The Grand Lodge fixes this as between lodges within its permanent jurisdiction. The Grand Lodge is the jurisdictional body. As between subordinate lodges the rule varies greatly in different jurisdictions, so there is no rule within the permanent jurisdictions that is uniform; and in territory not occupied by a Grand Lodge, but open alike to all; the rule is that the Grand Lodge establishing a lodge therein acquires thereby no territorial jurisdiction whatever, and the subordinate lodge none whatever against the Grand Lodge which may be duly organized then. These general statements are the American rule or custom. They are not law, except in a broader sense of implying a reasonable obligation to conform to the good custom for the common peace.

MINNESOTA.—The Grand Master says: "I am happy to say that the serious differences into which we were drifting, as it were, with the Grand Lodge of Dakota, have received a most wholesome check, and but little remains to assure that spirit of concord and true fraternity which should exist.

"The real difference was based upon this distinction, while each Grand Lodge conceded the principle of exclusive jurisdiction, Dakota conceived that it was based upon a positive law, to be given full force and effect upon the organization of a Grand Lodge as of course, while our then Grand Master held, or rather viewed it as a doctrine, or a rule at most, to be recognized and exercised in the spirit of concession only, and then only upon full fraternal conditions.

"In the absence of positive law to govern in such cases, and it is conceded to be still an 'open question,' Dakota even admitting that they could not compel an acquiescence with their views—a subordinate lodge could not be required, against its will, to throw off its allegiance to its parent Grand Lodge and accept affiliation with another. To attempt it by declaring it clandestine, or non-intercourse with its members, could only effect its relations and not its existence.

"Grand Master Braden did not deem the conditions, the attitude of the Grand Lodge of Dakota such as to impel him to advise the subordinate lodges in Dakota to affiliate with that Grand Lodge, for reasons which have been reported to you, prominent among them being the fact that at that time 'the membership of both lodges were unanimous in the desire to retain their connection with the Grand Lodge of Minnesota.' Since that time Shilo lodge, No. 105, petitioned for and affiliated with the Grand Lodge of Dakota, leaving at the close of our last session Bismark Lodge still subject to us and practically by our invitation.

"The continued exercise of jurisdiction in Dakota by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota was not only exciting the severe criticism of our sister Grand Lodges, but was fostering discord with our brethren in Dakota. I felt keenly the responsibility that I deemed to rest upon me to preserve the dignity of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, and to promote harmony. And with this view I investigated the