

Kerr lent the MS. to the late Judge Cooper, County Judge of Huron. At Bro. Cooper's death it could not be found, and all efforts since made to recover it have been vain. It is possible that the Judge lent it to somebody who still retains it, ignorant of the fact that inquiry has been made for it. If this is the case we trust that this article will fall into the hands of that person. Bro. Kerr has, we are informed, resigned his claim to the MS. in favor of the Grand Lodge of Canada; and if it still exists we entreat the holder to forward it to R. W. Bro. T. B. Harris, Grand Secretary, Hamilton. It may be of the utmost importance in determining the status of Masonry in the early years of the sixteenth century.

Bro. W. J. Hughan writes to *The Freemason* as follows in reference to this MS.:

This version of the "Old Charges" agrees in the main with the others which we have published, and also with those Bro. the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, M. A., and ourselves are thinking of issuing in 1874; but we fancy the year 1505 must be a clerical error, and meant for 1705, at which time the old Lodge of York was active, and likely enough engaged through its members in admitting Masons in other towns in the country. Bro. W. Cowling, P. M., P. Prov. W. W. (of York) has kindly searched through the names, but he cannot trace a William Thompson in the "rolls" preserved of the ancient York Lodge members, but the same surname is recorded, but not for the 16th century.

### THE GRAND LODGE OF MAINE.

The following rescript has been issued by the Grand Master.

GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF CANADA.

*To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:*

*Whereas*, at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the State of Maine, held at the City of Portland on the 6th day of May last, the following resolution was adopted, viz.:

"*Resolved*, that this Grand Lodge having recognized the exclusive jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Quebec in that Province, cannot recognize any Lodge therein holding under any authority other than that Grand Lodge; and the Subordinate Lodges in this jurisdiction, and their members, are hereby forbidden to hold any Masonic intercourse whatever with any Lodge in the Province of Quebec not in allegiance to the Grand Lodge of that Province, or with any member of such a Lodge."

*And Whereas* the Province of Quebec forms the eastern boundary of, and is within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, as constituted and declared on the 18th day of October, 1855, and its sovereign jurisdiction over the territory known as the Province of Ontario and Quebec has not only been admitted and recognized by all her sister Grand Lodges, and in an especial manner by the said Grand Lodge of Maine, as appears from the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted by that Grand Body at its Annual Communication in May, 1856:

"*Resolved*, that the reasons set forth by the Canadian Brethren appear to us a full vindication and defense of the important action which terminates the jurisdiction of foreign Grand Lodges in this noble Province, and that the successive steps taken by them in severing the bonds of allegiance which so long held them under separate foreign jurisdictions, and uniting themselves in one independent Grand Lodge, must, in our deliberate judgment, command the approbation of all true-hearted Free and Accepted Masons, and the fraternal recognition and cordial fellowship of all Grand Lodges of such throughout the world.

"*Resolved*, that the Grand Lodge of Maine most cordially grasp the right hand of brotherhood extended to us by the Grand Lodge of Canada, and in the name of our divine art, heartily respond to their claim for a reciprocation of fraternal regard." \* \*

*And Whereas*, the principle embraced in the resolution adopted by the Grand Lodge of Maine in May last, strikes at the very root, and saps the very foundation of the independence of sovereign bodies within their respective jurisdictions, and is also a most unjustifiable interference with the authority of this Grand Lodge, in thus arrogating to themselves the right to determine what portion of our Lodges and the members thereof are worthy of their recognition and fraternal treatment; and

*Whereas*, every warranted Lodge is a constituent part of the Grand Lodge, and as such entitled to her support and protection, and an injustice or insult to one is felt