

pressed a willingness to recognize it on the same terms, in reference to the three English lodges in Montreal; but this was refused by Quebec, which declared it would accept nothing short of recognition of supreme authority in the Province, and demanded the withdrawal of the warrants of these lodges. This was refused, but the G. L. of England intimated that it would offer no obstacle to the transference by the members of their allegiance. I sympathize strongly with the Grand Lodge of Quebec in the struggle for what I believe to be a correct principle.

CLANDESTINE MASONS.

Shortly before the last annual Communication of Grand Lodge, complaint was made to M. W. Bro. Spry that a person initiated in a clandestine lodge in this jurisdiction, had been passed and raised in a lodge in the State of Connecticut. The matter was laid before the Grand Master of that State who referred to it in his address as follows:

"Sometime in July, I received a complaint from the Grand Lodge of Canada that one of the lodges in this jurisdiction had conferred the Master Mason's degree upon a candidate who had received the E. A. and F. C. degrees, in a lodge chartered by the spurious co-called Grand Lodge of Ontario. Upon examination, finding the complaint to be well founded, and that the lodge complained of had erred through ignorance of the clandestine nature of that so-called Grand Lodge, I directed the Grand Secretary to make suitable explanation and apology to the M. W. Grand Lodge of Canada, and on the first day of August issued a circular, calling the attention of the lodges in this jurisdiction to the fact, that this so-called Grand Lodge of Ontario was a spurious and clandestine body, and directing that from henceforth, no lodge within this jurisdiction shall apply for release of jurisdiction over a candidate belonging in

another State, except through the Grand Master of this jurisdiction. The better to prevent the recurrence of any such case in the future, I recommend the passage of a permanent resolution of similar purport by this Grand Lodge."

CLOSING REMARKS.

It is gratifying at the end of my term to be able to announce, that our fraternity is in a more flourishing condition than at any previous time in our history. Though two Grand Lodges, Quebec and Manitoba, have swarmed from the mother hive, we have more lodges on our register than ever before; though envious and intolerant men have misrepresented and defamed our order, the membership of our lodges is steadily increasing; though from year to year we have increased our benevolent gifts, the amount in the treasury is not lessened, our ability to aid those in distress is not impaired. I desire to express my gratitude to the brethren for their uniform kindness. To M. W. Bro. Spry, Past Grand Master; R. W. Bro. Henry Robertson, Deputy Grand Master; R. W. Bro. Edward Mitchell, Grand Treasurer; and to the D. D. G. Masters of the several districts, and the other officers of Grand Lodge, my thanks are due for the support and assistance rendered me during my term of office; especially do I wish to acknowledge the debt of gratitude I owe to R. W. Bro. J. J. Mason, Grand Secretary, whose ability and zeal particularly fit him for the office he holds. In returning to you the emblem of authority, I thank you for the great honor conferred upon me. I regard it as the highest honor that can be bestowed on any man, to be selected and elected Grand Master of the honorable fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, and I assure you that to the best of my ability, I have without fear, faithfully and impartially endeavored to discharge my duties. **HUGH MURRAY, G. M.**
Hamilton, July 8th, 1885.