

these private Lodges so formed, until each Province shall have formed a Grand Lodge of its own, when the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge over these private Lodges would immediately cease; and this Grand Body would bid its offspring God's speed under the fostering care and jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of its own domain.

FRENCH LODGES.

Several communications have been received by me from Brethren in different parts of the Province, enquiring whether I would grant dispensations to form new Lodges whose work would be done in the French language. As it is so well said in our ancient constitutions,—“Freemasons are of all nations, tongues, kindreds and languages,” and following the example of several illustrious Grand Masters, I could personally have no hesitation in granting the dispensations prayed for; but as the subject is of such great and far-reaching importance, I decided to submit the whole question to Grand Lodge; and as among other things, the full consideration of the matter requires allusion to the *lex non scripta* of Freemasonry, I will endeavor to lay this peculiarly interesting and important subject more fully before you during the present communication.

WAR AND RELIEF.

While our own, and many other lands are happily enjoying the benign blessing of peace, it is a source of deep sorrow that two of the great nations of Europe, with whom we are intimately connected by the ties of lineage and fraternity, are suffering from the terrible scourge of war. “Masonry has ever flourished in times of peace, and has always been injured by war, bloodshed, and confusion. Craftsmen are bound by peculiar ties to promote peace, cultivate harmony, and live in concord and brotherly love.” And while many of our leading Brethren of these nations, (with whom the fraternal communications of this Grand Lodge, till within a short time, has been unbroken), are unavoidably involved in this conflict, we are sure, that while they may not be able wholly to prevent, they will do all in their power, to avert or assuage its horrors, and after doing what is necessary to relieve the wants of the needy and deserving, at home, I am sure that this Grand Lodge will cheerfully follow the noble example of the Grand Lodge of England in contributing according to its ability “to aid the sick and wounded in the present war.”