

Repeated inquiries having been made as to the attitude of this Grand Lodge towards the so-called "Grand Lodge of Ontario" and its members, I deemed it necessary to interdict all intercourse or masonic communication with the lodges under that organization, and the several members thereof, until you shall have taken action in the premises. This imperative step was justified by the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Canada, at its 21st annual communication, officially brought under my notice, and I could not but respect its sentence of expulsion, pending your decision. A similar course was adopted by the Grand Masters of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Louisiana and other States. I am not aware that the doctrine contended for by the so-called "Grand Lodge of Ontario" has been admitted by any regular body of Masons, nor that it has had recognition extended to it by any other Grand Lodge than that of Texas, which was soon withdrawn. The proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Canada will be laid before you, with a copy of my circular.

A petition for recognition has been received from the Grand Lodge of Cuba, already recognized by the Grand Lodges of several States. It will engage your attention, together with an application for information as to the establishment of a new Grand Lodge at Sydney, New South Wales.

For the relief of members of the craft who were sufferers by the great fire at St. John, New Brunswick, I caused \$200 to be promptly forwarded, and I rely upon the Grand Lodge to confirm the grant. I also authorized the issue of a circular to each subordinate Lodge, soliciting pecuniary aid for our unfortunate brethren in that city, who have lost their library and nearly all the contents of the office of the Grand Secretary. As Freemasonry is nothing without charity, I feel I have but to remind you of the calamity which has befallen our brethren in the sister Province to awaken your further sympathy and substantial assistance, if needed.

During my term of office I learned with regret that R. W. Bro. Edgar had resigned his position as Representative of the Grand Lodge of New York near the Grand Lodge of Quebec, and I had much pleasure in suggesting R. W. Bro. Tait, Deputy Grand Master, as his successor. I have given a commission to R. W. Bro. Calvin G. Shaw as our Grand Representative near the Grand Lodge of Dakota, and that Grand Lodge has named W. Bro. F. Sowden as its Representative here.

The Grand Lodge of Canada at its last meeting passed resolutions:—1. That the bequest of the late Bro. Edward Moss, towards the erection of a Freemasons' Widow and Orphan Asylum, should be drawn and paid over to this Grand Lodge; and, 2nd. That the amounts contributed to the Asylum Fund by the Lodges in this Province, then holding warrants from the Grand Lodge of Canada, should, with interest, be placed to their credit respectively. This honorable mode of dealing with both those benevolences cannot but meet with your admiration, and deserves, as it will doubtless secure, your warmest thanks.

I have granted dispensations for the establishment of three new Lodges: Rouville Lodge at Rougemont, Onslow Lodge at Onslow, and Corinthian Lodge at Montreal. Before granting the prayer of the applicants for Corinthian Lodge, I requested and obtained the repeated and unqualified recommendation of the R. W. District Deputy Grand Master of the Montreal District. If, by the reports to be submitted, it will be found that these Lodges are working well, and that it can be shown they will be of benefit to the craft generally, I recommend that charters be granted to them.