

Grand Mark Lodge will claim that it is not bound by the limitation, because, in accepting the recognition, it refrained from endorsing the limitation. In other words, the Grand Mark Lodge could accept a limited recognition, and claim to have the benefit of the recognition, without being bound by the limitation, because of a mental reservation to that effect when made it the acceptance. This would so palpably cross the line between honorable and dishonorable conduct, that we scout the intimation that any such position will be taken by the Grand Mark Lodge.

Waiving further discussion of the relations between the General Grand Chapter and the Grand Mark Lodge, we come to the relations between that body and the Grand Chapter of Quebec.

In 1878, the Committee on Correspondence of the Grand Chapter of Quebec copied the resolution of our General Grand Chapter, italicizing the portion we have quoted, and recommended the recognition of the Grand Mark Lodge on the same terms. Thereupon the Grand Z. recommended the recognition, and the Grand Chapter adopted the following resolution:—

*“Resolved, That the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Quebec, hereby recognizes the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales, and the colonies and dependencies of the British Crown, as the rightful and supreme authority over the degree of Mark Master Mason in England and Wales, and those colonies and dependencies of the British Crown, wherein no other Grand Body exists, or of right may be formed, claiming jurisdiction over that degree.”*

This recognition was accepted at once by the Grand Mark Lodge without the slightest suggestion of any change, and the Grand Chapter of Quebec was, in its turn, unconditionally recognized. When this was done, the American doctrine of jurisdiction,

and the claim of the Grand Chapter of Quebec to exclusive jurisdiction in that Province, must have been known to the Grand Mark Lodge.

Upon the undisputed facts, the Grand Chapter of Quebec claims:—

1. That by Masonic law, the Quebec Chapters, by virtue of inherent right, formed a Grand Chapter with jurisdiction in that Province, excluding the jurisdiction of any other body over any of the four degrees conferred in its Chapters.

2. That the recognition of the Grand Mark Lodge, and its acceptance, preclude that body from exercising any jurisdiction in that Province.

3. That the unconditional recognition of the Grand Chapter of Quebec by the Grand Mark Lodge, has the same effect.

Upon either of these grounds, the claim of Quebec, that the Grand Mark Lodge had no right to charter lodges in that Province, seems to be beyond the reach of successful assault.

It seems that the Grand Mark Lodge issued one charter in 1871. The Grand Chapter of Canada then took the same position that the Grand Chapter of Quebec does now. Upon its being rumored that the Grand Mark Lodge was about to issue such a warrant, the Grand Chapter of Canada, in 1872, notified it that such a warrant would not be recognized, and, if issued, ought to be withdrawn and cancelled. The Grand Z. took a decided position in the matter, and his views were endorsed by the Grand Chapter. Nothing more was heard of the matter, and we think that either the warrant did not actually issue, or if issued, the lodge was not constituted under it: at any rate, the evidence is overwhelming that the lodge never had worked prior to the formation of the Grand Chapter of Quebec, and had no actual existence.

Let us now examine the claims of the Grand Mark Lodge. We must bear in mind that when the Grand Chapter of Canada was formed in