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AN
ANSWER TO THE PROCLAMATION
OF
MELBOURNE M. TAIT, Esq., G. M.,
OF THE
SELF-ASSUMED GRAND LODGE OF QUEBEC,

BY

DR. GEORGE A. BAYNES,
Dist. G. M. of Scot. Sub-Freemasonry at Montreal.

MONTREAL :

ANDRU, N. D. 1878—A. L. 5882.

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ANSWER TO THE PROCLAMATION

OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

IN ANSWER TO THE PROCLAMATION

OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

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PROCLAMATION.

*To all Brethren in obedience to the M. W. the
Grand Lodge of Quebec, Ancient, Free and
Accepted Masons.*

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland has granted warrants to form two Lodges of Masons at Montreal, in the Province of Quebec, one to be called "King Solomon, No. 622," and the other "Argyle, No. 625." And

WHEREAS, it has been officially announced that the said Lodges are to be erected, constituted and consecrated by virtue of such warrants, and their officers to be installed on the twenty-fourth day of June, instant: And

WHEREAS, by such action, the Grand Lodge of Scotland has unjustifiably and unlawfully invaded the territory and jurisdiction of "The Grand Lodge of Quebec, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons," in violation of the laws and traditions of the fraternity affecting the establishment and sovereignty of Grand Lodges, and in a manner calculated to interfere most seriously with the welfare and harmony of the craft in the said Province: And

WHEREAS, such action on the part of the Grand Lodge of Scotland has occurred after unconditional recognition by her of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, as having and exercising supreme Masonic jurisdiction in said Province, which recognition she subsequently withdrew without just or lawful cause.

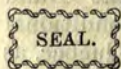
Be it therefore known unto you all, that in vindication of the sovereignty of "The Grand Lodge of Quebec, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons," and of the inherent rights and prerogatives of our ancient, honorable and loyal fraternity, and in justice to all those Grand Lodges whose recognition has been extended to her,—I, therefore, in virtue of the authority vested in me as Grand Master of "The Grand Lodge of Quebec, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons,"

declare and proclaim that the action of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in granting said two warrants, was and is unfraternal and unconstitutional; that said warrants are irregular and illegal; that the Lodges to be formed thereunder will be irregular and illegal Lodges; that all Masons named in said warrants are now, and all persons becoming members of said Lodges will be, irregular Masons; *and I hereby further declare and proclaim* all masonic intercourse to be suspended, and to cease, between this Grand Lodge, its subordinate Lodges, and all brethren in obedience thereto, and the G. L. of Scotland, and all Lodges and brethren in obedience thereto; and all brethren of the G. L. of Quebec are hereby commanded to hold no masonic intercourse with any brother in obedience to the said G. L. of Scotland, as far as ancient craft masonry is concerned; and this edict shall be and remain in full force and effect until revoked by the Grand Master, or the Grand Lodge of Quebec: And it is hereby further ordered that due proclamation of this edict be made to all brethren in obedience to this Grand Lodge; of all which they will take due notice and govern themselves accordingly;—and also that the same be communicated to all regular Grand Lodges throughout the world.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, at Montreal, Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, this 21st day of June, A. L. 5878.

MELBOURNE M. TAIT,
Grand Master.

JOHN H. ISAACSON,
Grand Sec'y G. L. of Q.



A N S W E R .

THE Grand Lodge of Scotland lately instituted two new Lodges at Montreal, where they were recently constituted under the respective names of "King Solomon," No. 622, and "Argyle," No. 625, for which the Grand Lodge has been censured for the offence of invading the territorial masonic jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, a Grand body duly recognized by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the appropriator of the District of Montreal as within its masonic domain.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland in May last adopted unanimously the report of its Foreign and Colonial Committee, which, among other things therein referred to, and after reference to the application made for the erection of the Argyle Lodge at Montreal, thus proceeds: "In respect this Grand Lodge does not recognize the pretended Grand Lodge of Quebec, which now seeks the exclusive jurisdiction of the District of Montreal, and which jurisdiction has been relinquished by the Grand Lodge of Canada; the Committee recommends the Grand Lodge to grant the prayer of the petition (for the Argyle), particularly as the Grand Lodge of Scotland exercises jurisdiction over lodges at Montreal instituted by it long prior to the existence of any Grand Lodge in Canada, pretended or real." And subsequently, at its meeting on the 5th of August, adopted the following reports of its Grand Committee:

The Grand Secretary tabled a petition from the Lodges Elgin, No. 348, King Solomon, No. 622, and Argyle, No. 625, praying for the erection of a Provincial Grand Lodge by the name and title of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Montreal, and recommending the appointment of Brother Dr. George A. Baynes as Provincial Grand Master. The Grand Secretary also reported the consecration of the two newly constituted Lodges at Montreal. Brother Dr. George A.

Baynes, R.W.M., of Elgin, No. 348, was Installing Officer, and was supported on the occasion by Brother The Honorable Judge Badgley, English District Grand Master of Montreal, and upwards of one hundred visiting Brethren.

The Grand Secretary stated that in terms of remit the Sub-Committee on Foreign and Colonial affairs had drawn up the following Report, which he would read:

"The Committee having considered the Communication from the body styling itself the Grand Lodge of Quebec, dated 17th May last, and a 'Proclamation' by its Grand Master, dated 21st June last, begs to report that the Grand Lodge in agreeing in February, 1877, to acknowledge Quebec as a Grand Lodge expressly reserved its jurisdiction over its Lodge the 'Elgin' at Montreal, in the event of that Lodge desiring to continue its connection with Scotland. This qualified resolution the body at Quebec has refused to accept; and it has imperatively demanded that the Grand Lodges of Scotland and England shall within a given period recall the Charters of their respective Lodges in the Colony, and that these Lodges shall thereupon apply for new Charters from it.

"The Grand Lodge of Scotland when it passed the resolution in question, was not informed of the claim advanced by Quebec to absolute and exclusive jurisdiction within the Province of Lower Canada. In its application of January 6, 1877, for recognition, it simply 'sincerely desired recognition of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and to be in fraternal intercourse with it.' Grand Lodge in disposing of the application was thus not aware of Quebec's pretensions, and that its demand was not only for recognition but also for renunciation by Grand Lodge of its hitherto undisputed jurisdiction over its own daughter Lodge at Montreal, and that too against the wish of that Lodge, which was in existence long before the formation even of the Grand Lodge of Canada itself.

"Had the body at Quebec frankly stated its demands in its application, the present difficulty would not have occurred, for Grand Lodge would have refused its recognition on such conditions. It had from the first been of opinion that a Grand Lodge at Quebec

was unnecessary, and it was only induced to accord its qualified recognition on the representation that the Grand Lodges of Canada and England had given theirs. But it now appears that the latter Grand body had also qualified its recognition in terms similar to those of Scotland, and that the Quebec body, with characteristic modesty, had refused its acceptance.

"In such circumstances the resolution to recognize Quebec to any extent has fallen, and that by its own act. It has thus no cause of just complaint, for Scotland is under no obligation to recognize it, and Scotland in declining to do so has exercised its undoubted right. The terms on which it offered recognition are those that have in every other similar case been exacted and readily agreed to. They are only insisted on in places where daughter Lodges desire to retain their connection with their mother Grand Lodge, and when, through time, that desire dies out, Scotland readily renounces her jurisdiction in such localities.

"The Committee desires to remind Grand Lodge that in recognizing the Grand Lodge of Canada similar conditions were agreed to by that Grand body, and that the closest alliance and harmonious intercourse has throughout existed between the two Grand Lodges.

"We are not told on what ground Quebec pretends to have a more extended title than that of the Grand Lodge of Canada. It seceded from that Grand Lodge, and by importunity succeeded in getting it to relinquish in its favor its jurisdiction over the Province of Lower Canada. But the relinquishment of that jurisdiction did not and could not convey the jurisdiction of other Grand bodies which it did not possess. The Grand Lodge of Canada conferred no right other than its own; and if the right to govern the English and Scotch Lodges belonged to the Grand Lodges of those countries it still remains with them.

"The body at Quebec having declined to accept of the recognition of Scotland on the terms offered it, is not in its eyes a lawful Masonic power, and the Grand Lodge of Canada, having ceased to exercise jurisdiction in the province, the district has become open territory, and is now in the same position as it was prior to the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada. In con-

former British Provinces, now the United States of America, in constituting their Grand Lodges.

The following information is taken from American Masonic records and cannot err :

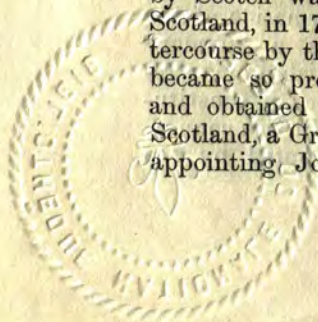
Long previous to the recognition of the independence of the British American Provinces—the United States of America—by the peace of 1777, Masonry had been introduced to several of them under *delegations* from the Grand Masters of Great Britain, chiefly of England, by which not only Subordinate Lodges were instituted in them, but also Grand Lodges were established, which, in the exercise of their authorities, issued Lodge warrants in their own several jurisdictions, and also in other and more distant British Dependencies.

The first Grand Lodge in date was that of Georgia, constituted under delegation warrant in 1730, issued by Lord Weymouth, G. M. of England, to Roger Price at Savannah, and followed by Lord Aberdour as G. M. of Scotland in 1755-6, and by the same as G. M. of England afterwards, in 1757-8.

The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts followed, and was constituted by warrant of Lord Montague, G. M. of England, in April, 1733, appointing Henry Price G. M. of North America, with power and authority to appoint his Deputy and other officers necessary for forming a Grand Lodge, and also to constitute Lodges as occasion should require.

This Grand Lodge was opened at Boston in July, 1733, and organized under the name of "St. John's Grand Lodge," sometimes called "The Grand Lodge of Modern Masons." Several Lodges were constituted under warrants of this Grand Lodge, beyond even its own territorial jurisdiction, as at Barbadoes, Surinam, Nova Scotia, Quebec, etc.

During this time, there existed also at Boston, a Lodge called "St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 32," constituted by Scotch warrant from Lord Aberdour, G. M. of Scotland, in 1752, which was opposed and refused intercourse by the St. John's Grand Lodge, but which became so prosperous that its members applied to and obtained from the Earl of Dalhousie, G. M. of Scotland, a Grand Lodge warrant, dated in May, 1769, appointing Joseph Warren, Esq., Grand Master in



Boston and within 100 miles of the same, by whom, after his own installation, the new Grand Lodge was constituted as "The Grand Lodge of Ancient Masons." In 1772 this same Grand Master was, by the Earl of Dumfries, G. M. of Scotland, appointed G. M. of Masons for the continent of America.

In 1792, after the Peace of Independence, the officers and members of the two above Grand Lodges met in conjunction and formed together a Grand Masonic Union, abolishing all distinctions between the Ancient and Modern Masons, and duly installed a Grand Master; and the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was fully organized and still exists from their Union.

The Grand Lodge of North Carolina was first constituted by charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1771. It convened at Newbern and Edenton. At the latter place its records were kept, and were there destroyed by the British forces during the Revolutionary War, and from that time the meetings were suspended.

The first Lodge constituted in Pennsylvania was under warrant from the Grand Lodge at Boston in 1734, with Benjamin Franklin as Master; and in 1764, the Grand Lodge of England granted a Grand Lodge warrant to W. M. William Bell and others, authorizing them to form a Grand Lodge for Pennsylvania.

No other Grand Lodge beside the above was established in the British Provinces previous to the Independence, but from them originated the subordinate Lodges for the most part in the other provinces.

In addition to the powers vested by charter in the Grand Lodges before mentioned for instituting subordinate Lodges, the Grand Lodge of England appointed Provincial Grand Masters in several of the provinces, and invested them, also, with authority to grant warrants for holding Lodges.

The Revolutionary War interfered with Masonry and its extension, until some time after the peace of 1777, when the old constituted Lodges began again to assemble and to make arrangements for reorganizing the craft in regular order in the several new-called States, which, being politically sovereign and independent in themselves, impressed a sovereign and independ-

dent character upon the Supreme Collective Masonic authority among the Masons of each State.

From the foregoing it is manifest that British Provincial Masonry was not a local or a general assumption of Masonic power, but was derived in regular course by delegation from the settled and acknowledged authority in the mother Grand Lodges of Great Britain, and was extended with full effect and authority to the Grand and Provincial Grand Lodges established in the Provinces, and from them was given, as far as required, to the subordinate Lodges; the chain of Masonic authority descending unbroken, and always acknowledged, from the mother Supreme Grand Lodges to the Grand and subordinate Lodges in successive and regular order, without assumption of self-existing authority. The result of the revolutionary struggle in America introduced an absolute necessity into American Masonry as it was then left; the Provinces having become sovereign and independent of their federative union, no supreme general constituent power remained either for general control or for State regulation, and the Revolution, which separated the States from the Government of the Mother Country, also, of necessity, exonerated the American Lodges from allegiance to a now foreign Grand Lodge, upon the principle that "Masonry inculcates obedience to the Government under which Masons live." The American Lodges, therefore, from necessity, at the termination of the war resorted to the only necessary means left, by forming and establishing Independent State Grand Lodges for the government of the fraternity in their respective jurisdictions, by conceding to the brethren of the Lodges in each State an elective supremacy for the establishment of State Grand Lodges, with independent powers and prerogatives in each, to be exercised on principles consistent with and subordinate to the general regulations and constitutions of Masonry.

This is explained in the report of the Masonic General Committee, held at Boston in 1783: "The political head of this country having destroyed all connection and correspondence between the subjects of these States and the country from which the Grand Lodge (of Massachusetts) originally derived

"*its commissioned authority*," of necessity indicated that "Masonry would languish and finally cease in this part of the world without Grand State Government;" and in consequence the course above referred to was adopted in the several States, mainly upon the short and plain ground, "that the Lodges could not be subject to or remain any longer under the authority of a now *foreign Grand Lodge*"—adopted at the general meeting for Pennsylvania as the text for the action of the other State Conventions of Masons.

The urgency for action by the several State Lodges being manifest, and their general elective supremacy being a necessity, the old Grand Lodges ceased to exist, and hence, therefore, were replaced by the Masonic State machinery of election in the original federative States, which necessarily became a guide in principle for succeeding States as they entered the Confederation, and hence every independent State had its own established independent Grand Lodge, because each State is independent and sovereign in and by itself for its internal affairs.

The Conquest of French Canada in 1760 brought into the conquered country English Masonry, which gradually spread in the two Provinces of Lower Canada and Upper Canada into which the conquered country was divided, in which by delegation from the M. W. the Grand Master of England Provincial Grand Masters were appointed, with authority to constitute Provincial Grand Lodges for each Province, but afterwards, for local convenience, Lower Canada was sub-divided into two Masonic Provincial Districts, Montreal and Quebec, with separate Provincial Grand Masters and Grand Lodges for each, the subordinate Lodges throughout the Provinces, until the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada in 1855, receiving their warrants from the Grand Master of England or Scotland. In 1847 a Scotch Lodge, the Elgin, No. 348, among others, was instituted at Montreal by warrant from the Grand Master of Scotland, which still survives and prospers, and in 1848 an Irish Lodge was also constituted at Montreal, by warrant from the Grand Master of Ireland, the latter Lodge at present is dormant. This innovation by the sister Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland caused no difficulty

with the Grand Lodge of England as a question of invasion of territorial jurisdiction, because Canada was a province of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

In 1855 a number of Masons of Canada Lodges desirous of prominent Masonic office, originated an independent Grand Lodge for Canada, and urging the example of the American State Grand Lodges, assumed the right claimed by them, and constituted themselves into the Grand Lodge of Canada. After a struggle with the Grand Lodge of England for recognition of course by that body, the recognition was granted, upon conditions protective of English warrants in force in Canada and of English Masons who would not separate themselves from their connection with and their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England, thereby to all intents establishing a concurrent jurisdiction in Canada, between England and Canada, as long only as the Grand Lodge of Canada retained territorial jurisdiction by itself over its occupied Masonic territory. Subsequently Scotland and Ireland granted the same qualified recognition. As already stated, the Grand Lodge of Canada, for the exercise of its assumption of power, rested upon the elective supremacy assumed *ex necessitate* by the American State Masons.

It is manifest that the precedent offered by the Grand Lodge of Canada was neither applicable nor relevant, but from a morbid dread of jeopardizing subsisting Masonic harmony in the Province, an amicable arrangement resulted, which obviated further discussion between the Grand Lodges of England and Canada, but the arrangement was restricted to the Grand Lodge of Canada itself, and did not extend to any other Grand Lodge which might arise in the Province.

After a few years of troubled existence, the Grand Lodge of Canada withdrew from all territorial jurisdiction over the Province of Lower Canada, including Montreal and its district, because a number of Masons in Lower Canada, now Quebec, separated from the Grand Lodge of Canada, and, following the example of the latter, assumed to themselves the right to constitute themselves into a so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, urging as their only ground for the assumed rights, the *exclusive territorial principle*, and the

State Constitutions of the American State Grand Lodges. The precedent offered had no applicability, because there was no necessity for the assumption of unwarranted authority: the Province being in intimate connection with the United Kingdom, the establishment of a Grand Lodge for Quebec might have been solicited in like manner, as had been admitted by the mother Grand Lodges of England and Scotland, for the late British Provinces, as above referred to. The Grand Lodges of England and Scotland were in full existence and operation at the time, Quebec was still a Province of the British Empire, and was governed by no necessity for assuming to act without other than the selfish determination of candidates for elevated Masonic office.

Although the (pretended) Grand Lodge of Quebec gave itself existence, it is not recognized by England, Scotland or Ireland, and has no Provincial legitimate sanction. The Lodges in Canada under warrants from the Grand Lodges of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland are recognized by Provincial law statute as also, by an amendment to that law, are those under the Grand Lodge of Canada; but the Lodges under the Quebec body are without legislative Provincial recognition, and its constituted Lodges having no protection from its assumed authority, their acts since their institution are within the legal disqualification of unlawful confederacies, impeaching their elective choice of Grand Masters, and the organization of the Grand Lodge of Quebec itself. The Masonic principle inculcating upon its professors submission to the commands of the law of the Province in which they dwell has been set at nought ever since the formation of that body in 1869, and all the decrees of the assumed Grand Lodge of Quebec in the interval, with all its elected Grand Masters, are illegal and clandestine, as the result of unwarranted assumption of Masonic authority.

From the foregoing it is evident that the reports of the Foreign and Colonial Committee of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, adopted by that body, as recorded above, harmonize with the principles of Masonry, and apply in the fullest manner to the Province of Quebec, which is open to the action of the Grand

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Lodge of Scotland in its legal constitution of the King Solomon and Argyle Lodges at Montreal, and subsequently at its meeting in August, erecting the three Lodges, Nos. 348, 622, 625, into a Provincial Grand Lodge.

In addition to the foregoing, the nullifying irregularities are charged against the constitution itself of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, which is shown in the 15th Annual reported proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

