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NEW ZEALAND. ALL HAIL!

CONCURRENT JURISDICTION.

The Freemason (London) has, on various occasions of late, taken the opportunity of expatiating on the beauties of "concurrent jurisdiction," and to represent it as a most desirable state for the Craft in Canada and the Colonies. Now, we have the greatest respect for *The Freemason*, and look upon it as the premier Masonic paper of the world, but we, nevertheless, find ourselves, at times, compelled totally to disagree with that journal, and never more so than when it deals with Colonial Craft matters. *The Freemason* has always had a horror of the creation of independent Grand Lodges in the British Colonies and Dependencies, and rarely loses an opportunity of attacking any movement having for its object the establishment of Masonic self-government in a Colony—even although the movement may be supported by what is practically the unanimous voice of the Craft in the Colony interested. We have only to mention the case of South Australia to justify ourselves in this assertion. In a leaderette on the application of the Grand Lodge of South Australia for recognition from the Home Grand Lodges, *The Freemason* not only attempted to throw cold water on the new Grand Lodge, but most unfairly charged the Craft

of the Colony with being swayed by an inordinate desire for titular distinction. *The Freemason* appears to consider that it is a kind of treason, under any circumstances, for the Craft in any Colony or dependency to aspire to the privilege of autonomy, and is never tired of pointing out how thankful we in the Colonies should be to be ruled by the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland. We do not wish to say anything hard of *The Freemason* on account of the conservative policy that it advocates, but are quite willing to believe that it is thoroughly honest in intention and actuated by a sincere desire for the welfare of the Craft. Nevertheless, it is plainly to be seen that when dealing with Colonial Masonic subjects its judgment is warped by local bias, and that when any movement is on foot which will in any way lessen the enormous jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England it is unable to weigh fairly the *pros* and *cons* of the matter. We are pleased, however, that the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland do not so narrow down their judgments, but are always ready to deal fairly with any demand from the Colonies for recognition of local autonomy. *The Freemason* has recently been led to hold up to view the beauties of "concurrent jurisdiction," for the benefit of a distracted Craft in Quebec. A dispute has been going on for years