

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.

THE ENGLISH MUDDLE IN QUEBEC.

Editor of THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN.

The subject that at present is attracting the attention of the active mind of the intelligent Quebec Masons in Montreal is the effective carrying out of the edict of non-intercourse with English Masons. The subject has been brought of late prominently before the notice of the Craft by the development of the fact that one lodge on the English register sent a delegate to the Montreal Masonic Board of Relief and was a contributor to its funds. In this connection it must not be forgotten there are three English Lodges of Masons (so-called) in Montreal, and that by means of this one representative to the Board, the English Masons have managed to draw from sixty to ninety per cent. annually of the funds distributed by the Board. Now the amount distributed to English Masons would call for no comment if there were none of their own lodges here and the edict forbidding all Masonic intercourse had no existence, but while the fact remains that this edict is in full force, these applicants have been receiving assistance when our own Grand Lodge has put them outside the pale of Masonry, for it would appear plain on the face of it that during its continuance, this edict of non-intercourse places those whom it affects in the position of men who have never been initiated into our mysteries. Constituted as our Board of Relief is, no man can become a member of it except by virtue of his Masonhood. Hence no English Mason can lawfully be a member of the Board, nor can the Board lawfully relieve a distressed English Mason, because the edict of

the Grand Lodge of Quebec declares he is not in good standing.

In view of the fact that these three lodges still exist here there is nothing to prevent their forming their own Board of Relief and assisting their own people. It does seem *infra dignitatem* for such high-toned people to be willing to accept relief at the hands of Quebec Masons, those colonial nobodies, whose blood is not sufficiently blue to enable them to associate with the more aristocratic Englishman on terms of equality. Nor is there any want of charity in this position, for the Englishman has it entirely in his own hands. It is entirely his own doing if the Quebec Mason refuses to assist him, for the English Mason can at any moment restore peace and harmony to this disturbed Province, by handing over the warrants of their Lodges to the Grand Lodge of Quebec for endorsement and they then would become legal Masons according to Masonic law, as well as the law of this country.

For a large part of our present unhappy condition we may thank the Masons of the Grand Lodge of Canada (Ontario) who inaugurated such a state of affairs in this Province, and we have also to thank warmly this same Grand Lodge of Canada for the kind sympathy and substantial support she has accorded Quebec Masons in getting rid of this her precious legacy.

However, when the English Mason applies to the Montreal Masonic Board of Relief and finds written on the lintel, the legend "No English need Apply" he will then realize and be able to explain to his friends "At home" the blessings they have by their stupid obstinacy been the means of producing in this Province.

The fact is Quebec Masons must wake up to the realities of their position and take the matter in hand in earnest, putting away all mawkish sentimentality, so that the English Mason may learn, as one by one the American Grand Lodges come prac-