

A MASONIC CRISIS.

Our readers are already aware that some of our brethren in the Province of Quebec have established a so-called Grand Lodge for that Province, and have issued circulars asking recognition from the other Grand Lodges throughout the world. As announced in our last issue, the M. W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in view of these proceedings, summoned an emergency communication of Grand Lodge, which was held at Montreal on the 1st inst. That our readers may be at the earliest moment placed in possession of the facts, we publish this month an enlarged number of the CRAFTSMAN, containing the proceedings of Grand Lodge. The address of the M. W. the Grand Master will amply repay a careful perusal. It gives a succinct and clear statement of the proceedings taken by him in the crisis in which he found himself placed; and it has this special merit, that it gives the case of our Quebec brethren who have seceded, in the very language used by them—a proceeding which, although involving a much longer address than usually comes from “the Throne,” was necessary to a full and fair understanding of the whole case. It will be seen by the report which we publish, that the important resolutions submitted by the committee of Grand Lodge, those relating to the constitutional question involved in the proceedings taken by certain brethren in Quebec, were unanimously adopted. There was a division only upon the fourth resolution, and, as will be seen, the question involved on that point was simply this: whether the seceders should be summoned at once to show cause why expulsion should not take place, or whether six months should be allowed before that extreme course was adopted, during which time the excitement that prevails may be allowed to subside, and Grand Lodge be in a better position, in view of the progress of events in the meantime, to come to a wise and moderate conclusion.

There will be abundant time and opportunity between this and the meeting of Grand Lodge, when some more decisive action must be taken, to discuss the points involved in this unfortunate dispute, and the Craft may depend upon the fullest discussion being permitted in these pages. We shall gladly afford to our seceding Quebec brethren, or to brethren in Ontario who sympathize with them, an opportunity to state, as forcibly as they can do so, the argument which, in their view, justifies the recent proceedings. The question is one to be discussed in a friendly, not in an angry, spirit, and with reference to principles and to the interests of Freemasonry, and not to the feelings or wishes of individual brethren; and, discussed in this spirit, we cannot but believe that a conclusion will be arrived at, calculated to promote the best interests of Freemasonry in these Provinces.

In the meantime, there are one or two general principles which may