

OUR QUEBEC BRETHREN.

As promised in our last number, we now proceed to consider some of the grave questions raised by the premature action of certain brethren in the Province of Quebec, in attempting the formation of a Grand Lodge within the territorial jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada; and while expressing our honest convictions upon the various points at issue, we would, at the same time, state that we claim no higher authority for our utterances, neither do we assume any right, arbitrarily, to dispose of them, further than the right which belongs to every member of the Canadian craft,—to express his peculiar views from his own stand-point.

We do not propose at present to discuss, in extenso, the *legality* of the recent movement; for to us, as faithful adherents of our Grand Lodge, the decision of that Most Worshipful Body is binding and conclusive. In connection, however, with this branch of the subject, we may briefly refer to one or two points, which those who sustain the movement appear to consider as conclusive of its legality. The first of these which we notice is one which is brought forward very frequently, and which is regarded as incontrovertible: "It is alleged that it is a well-established law of Masonry that masonic and political boundaries are co-terminous." We at once admit that this principle has been adopted, and generally acted upon in the neighboring republic, and also that it has been found convenient in practice; but we would ask where was this *law* to be found fifty years since? But were we to grant, for the sake of argument, that it is a *well-understood law of Masonry*, we must still contend that it does not apply to the case now under consideration; for our boundaries are precisely the same to-day as they were in 1855, when the Grand Lodge of Canada was formed, and we most distinctly deny the right of any legislative or executive power either to increase or diminish the territorial jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge of Freemasons.

It is also asserted that the Grand Lodge of Canada never exercised *supreme*, but only *concurrent* authority, in Lower Canada, because, forsooth, certain foreign Lodges, after the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada continued to work under their original warrants; and a writer on the subject sneeringly professes to enlighten us on this point, by informing us how fearfully mistaken we are when we assume that these Lodges were only working by permission of our Grand Lodge, while in fact we were never consulted on the subject. This same luminous writer triumphantly proclaims his recollection of how the Grand Lodge of Canada *begged* and *prayed* for a recognition, and how