

The Canadian Craftsman.

Port Hope, March 15, 1882.

The Craftsman.

We wish particularly to draw the attention of the readers of THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN to the mass of general information that we have this month collated from various sources. This feature of the magazine will, we think, prove particularly instructive and interesting to all lovers of our royal art. The proceedings of every Grand Body that we have received during the past month have been carefully read, and selections, rulings, with questions and answers, culled from the addresses of Grand Masters and others high in authority; whilst the principal features worthy of report from Committees on Jurisprudence and Foreign Correspondence have been selected with the greatest care. In addition to this we have condensed from our European, Australian and American exchanges all items that we deemed worthy of notice. These efforts to present to the readers of THE CRAFTSMAN every month an epitome of the Masonic news of the world will, we feel confident, prove of material advantage to all students of our mysteries.

The London Freemason and Exclusive Sovereignty.

The London *Freemason* of January 28th, in alluding to our position with regard to exclusive Grand Lodge sovereignty in and for the Province of Quebec, says: "Our contemporary, THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN, appears to

us to lay far too much stress on Bro. Graham's argument anent exclusive sovereignty of Masonic jurisdiction, as he calls it, which he obtains from an entire misreading of one of the older regulations which is incorporated in our Book of Constitution." Now we have carefully re read this clause, and can only discover one meaning to it, and that is, that the United Grand Lodge of England will not recognize any lodge working within her jurisdiction that does not acknowledge her authority. In other words, she like the Grand Lodge of Scotland claims for herself exclusive sovereign powers over all lodges within her territory, whether those lodges existed prior to her own formation or not, as is the case of Melrose Abbey Lodge in Scotland. In order, however, that our readers may judge for themselves we quote the passage referred to, taken from Grand Master Graham's able address on September 23, 1881. He says: "In the 'Constitutions of the Ancient Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons,' Constitution of the 'United Grand Lodge of England' edition, August 1863, page 62, sec. 10, 'Of Private Lodges,' is the following: 'The precedency of lodges is derived from the number of their constitution as recorded in the books of Grand Lodge. No lodge shall be acknowledged, nor its officers admitted into Grand Lodge, or a Provincial Grand Lodge, nor any of its members entitled to partake of the general charity, or other Masonic privileges, unless it has been regularly constituted and registered.' "

Now the learned editor of the London *Freemason* expresses his wonder that we do not see that that is a re-