

to say, is true. And if these things had not been done, we verily believe concord would have been re-established in Canada long ago. The Grand Lodge of Canada gave its adhering members in Quebec full powers to make peace in 1871. Those brethren appointed delegates, who met delegates from the Quebec body in the year named, and arranged a basis of settlement substantially the same as that finally adopted—the basis being that submitted by the Quebec brethren. Our Grand Lodge was pledged to accept that basis; and there is no reasonable doubt that the Quebec body would have accepted it also had they been left to themselves. But then certain Grand Lodges of the United States “encouraged their members to pass over into Quebec,” to “urge on the battle,” and to “widen the breach,” so as to “make a settlement of the trouble almost hopeless,” and in the face of these facts, the editor of the *Masonic Jewel* feels called upon to censure the Grand Bodies of Canada and Quebec because their “unmasonic feelings” are “gradually disseminating their uncomfortable influences over all the Grand Lodges of the United States!” We wish we could detect the faintest trace of irony in the sentence which says that “their acts”—that is those of Canada and Quebec—“should no longer disgrace the spirit of a great benevolent, charitable, and universal institution.” If we could believe that our brother was indirectly censuring those who, he says, were urging on the battle and making a settlement almost hopeless, we would have a better opinion of the qualities alike of his head and his heart.

But we have not yet come to our brother's advice, which so moved our gratitude to begin with. He says that the Canadian Masons have “found that they cannot settle the matter among themselves,” and he recommends arbitration. Now arbitration is doubtless a good thing, though most Canadians—Masonic and profane—have an uncomfortable feeling when the word is mentioned. But whom shall we get to arbitrate? Members of one of the British Grand Lodges? Quebec would hardly consent to that, since, as the British Grand Lodges refused to recognize her existence, their members would be reasonably certain to pronounce against her. Members of one of those Grand Lodges of the United States which have suspended fraternal relations with either Canada or Quebec? In either case there might be some fear of a little partiality one way or the other. Our brother might suggest that the brethren who went into Quebec to “urge on the battle,” would be good arbitrators; and, indeed, there would be much to say in favor of that proposition were there not a better one back of it, for none could more appropriately be called upon to restore peace than those so largely responsible for a continuance of unfriendliness; and it would have been a beautiful sight to see these fomenters of ill-will waving the olive branch, and saying, “Bless you, children, bless you: be virtuous and you will be happy.” That would have been an exhibition for the Masonic world to hold in remembrance for all time to come; and we would have been tempted to invent a new degree whose members should be called Grand Panjandruns of Canada, to preserve that highly interesting and instructive event in Masonic history. But a still better selection would have been that of Brother Wheeler himself; and if we had any lingering regret that the breach between Canada and Quebec was healed, it would be because the healing was not due to the efforts of the genial, the charitable and the well-informed editor of the *Masonic Jewel*, of Memphis, Tennessee.