

The Canadian Craftsman.*Port Hope, December 15, 1886.***THE LONDON FREEMASON
AND QUEBEC.**

In the September and November numbers of *THE CRAFTSMAN*, we reproduced certain somewhat lengthy editorials from our respected contemporary, *The Freemason*, of London, England, upon the "Quebec question," and we now redeem the promise made in our last issue, by commenting more fully thereon.

It must have been evident to all our readers that our contemporary conveniently sought to evade the fundamental questions involved in the Quebec-England controversy, and endeavored to becloud the subject by raising minor issues. We will not, therefore, at this present, follow our contemporary in its meanderings, the more especially as nearly all which it has advanced has been answered, nay, even refuted, over and over again.

The whole "Quebec question" (and the consequent Quebec-England controversy), readily resolves itself into three propositions:—

1. The rightful existence of the Grand Lodge of Quebec.
2. Its right to have exclusive sovereignty over Craft Masons and Craft Masonry within the territorial limits of the Province of Quebec, and
3. The right by lawful means to enforce said exclusive Masonic sovereignty.

The question of the constitutional right of the Grand Lodge of Quebec *to be*, long ago passed beyond the region of controversy amongst well-informed brethren.

The Grand Lodge of England fully conceded its rightful existence by its official correspondence therewith,—by proffering its recognition and the interchange of Grand Representatives as a regularly constituted Grand Body, with no reservation whatever pertaining to the regularity of its existence.

The right and title of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, to territorial sovereign craft jurisdiction, has been conceded by all the Grand Lodges of the world (to which Quebec, as in duty bound, submitted the question for decision)—with the exceptions of England and Scotland!

This important question is therefore reduced to very narrow limits, and to use the vulgar illustration of our London contemporary, "two boys have attempted to send their forty school-mates to Coventry!"

And be it ever remembered, that as all regular Grand Lodges of Freemasons are peers as to their rights, privileges and prerogatives, the age or numerical strength of any Grand Lodge does not *per se* give increased force or effect to their vaticinations or decisions.

It has been irrefutably demonstrated by Quebec, and accepted and emphasized by most of the other Grand Lodges, Grand Masters, and leading jurists of the Masonic world (more especially amongst Anglo-Saxon Freemasons) that the doctrine of "exclusive sovereignty" is not merely an "American doctrine," but that it is a fundamental doctrine of the constitutions of the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland,—and that, too, ever since the formal