

the Grand Lodge of Quebec to supreme Masonic authority in its own territory. Our contemporary will now appreciate the importance of aiding "inappreciable minorities" to withstand "the great desideratum of the restoration of harmony" in the Craft where they unfortunately live. There is also a difference in the Quebec case from New Zealand, in the fact, that only a very few at the present time were members of the Craft when the difficulty began, yet the Grand Lodge of England, has not the manliness to remedy a grievance, after twenty-seven years suffering.

WE were allowed recently to peruse a number of private letters written by our late M. W. Bro. W. M. Wilson, P. G. Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, to a brother in Montreal, during the troublesome times, when the Grand Lodge of Quebec was instituted. In a letter, referring to a discussion that took place in the Grand Lodge of Canada, regarding the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, dated 6th December, 1870, M.W. Bro. Wilson writes: "I did not advocate a recognition on the grounds of expediency, but on the broad ground that a prompt recognition would be for the good of Masonry. So large and so respectable a body of brethren having declared in favor of an independent existence. I was disposed to ignore all mere legal and technical objections, and urged the adoption of that course, which I believed would ensure the speedy restoration of harmony, and secure the best interests of Masonry."

What do our English brethren think of such sentiments? Mere legal quibbles, although he was one of Her Majesty's Judges, learned in the law, he was disposed to ignore, where a speedy

restoration of harmony was required to secure the best interests of Masonry. It was such sentiments as these that made M. W. Bro. Wilson respected in his life and mourned by the Craft at his death.

To show our readers how absurd the English Constitution is in regard to minorities holding Warrants, we copy the following letter from the *Freemason*, which plainly states the case, in a somewhat extreme manner, it may be true, but still within the scope of this law:

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—I have read with much interest your report of the special Grand Lodge on the New Zealand question, and from speeches made by Bros. Baskett and Eve it would seem that the law of our Grand Lodge presents a most grotesque anomaly. If I read aright, the law is thus—The Colony of, say *Utopia*, has 50 English lodges working within its boundaries, controlled by a District Grand Lodge, *forty-seven* of these lodges decide *unanimously* that they wish to form an independent Grand Lodge; the remaining *three* lodges have respectively 100, 80, and 50 members, and there are in favour of the new Grand Lodge, 97, 77, and 47 of their total membership, whilst *three* cantankerous members of *each* decline to leave the Grand Lodge of England, so that out of 50 lodges with a membership of *about two thousand* Masons, there are only *nine* Masons dissentient. These *nine*, however, can *retain their three warrants* and open their lodges (and, if they help each other as visitors, can make Masons) and retain their *District Grand Lodge* in spite of a *majority of one thousand nine hundred and ninety-one against them!* Surely if such a farcical absurdity occurs in our Book of Constitutions, for the sake of our reputation for *sanity*, to say nothing of *common sense*, it should be speedily expunged.