

THE QUEBEC DIFFICULTY.

At the last Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada, the settlement of the Quebec difficulty was referred to the Masons of Quebec, with the promise, implied by the passage of the resolution, that Grand Lodge would, as soon as an arrangement mutually satisfactory to the loyal Masons and those who have withdrawn from their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Canada, had been effected, cede the territory embraced within the limits of the Province of Quebec, and make such other concessions as justice required. That resolution was, we believe, sustained by some brethren who have heretofore professed very strong friendship for the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, and the perfect acquiescence in the movement which brought it into existence. The majority by which it was carried was a very large one; and expressions of confidence were freely indulged in upon all sides that the question had been left in good hands, and that the schism, which all true Masons have so much regretted was certain soon to be settled. With so much confidence one might fairly have hoped that our brethren in Quebec would have been allowed to settle the matter in their own way, without any outside interference; but we regret to notice that this has not been the case.

In the *Gavel* for August, issued early in September, we have a statement put forth, as the apology for delay in the publication, which does very great injustice to the Brethren in Quebec. The following is the statement of our contemporary:—

"In Grand Lodge publicly and privately, Bros. Racicot and Pickel advocated PEACE, and assured us with every Masonic token of sincerity that they would spare no effort to harmonize the contending and opposing elements that now disgrace that fair Province. We believed, and still believe, those brethren were in earnest, (if they were not they will never again be welcomed in the Grand Lodge of (Ontario) Canada) but we regret to say, for some reason, they have delayed action. Six valuable weeks have passed by since Grand Lodge met, and the result has been a growing feeling of dissatisfaction. The Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Thomas White, upon whom so many very properly relied, has, it is rumored, refused to move in the matter, and a general lethargy seems to have come over those whom we relied for words of Brotherly Love. We have waited, waited, waited, and at last we are forced to issue the *Gavel* without being able to hint at one circumstance that would point to any amicable settlement of present difficulties."

Now this paragraph conveys a very serious charge against the brethren in Quebec, and, in a special degree, against the Deputy Grand Master; and we cannot but think that a Freemason upon whose lips the words "Brotherly Love" sit so glibly, and from whom, therefore, some exhibition of that attribute might fairly be expected, should have taken the trouble to make inquiries before publishing so grave an accusation. While, we would greatly have preferred avoiding for the present, all reference to the subject, this attack has led us to make some inquiries, and we find that there is not a particle of justification for the charges it contains. So far from the Quebec brethren having been guilty of unnecessary delay in carrying out the resolution of Grand Lodge, so far