

mean and contemptible. Sir Christopher died 1723, was living when that organization was said to have taken place, and was at that time 86 years old, and yet active. We continue the King George paragraph. Anderson says, the few Lodges "thought fit to cement under a Grand Master, as the centre of union and harmony." But the cement did not prove a bond of union.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

A WORD OF COUNSEL IN SEASON.

Few things are more grateful to a true Mason than a word of affectionate, brotherly counsel. He may not always see the way open to take that counsel; but he cannot help feeling thankful for it, or being the better of it. The brother who, despising danger, flies to his rescue in the hour of his utmost peril will live nearer his heart, and so probably will he who ministers to his necessities in the hour of adversity; but a genuine Mason can never hold earnest advice faithfully given to be a small service or one to be lightly despised or soon forgotten. We are moved to these reflections—and some others—by an article in the *Masonic Jewel*, of Memphis, Tennessee, entitled "Canada and Quebec," which, after deploring "the unmasonic feeling existing between the Grand Lodges of Canada and Quebec," which it says "are gradually disseminating their uncomfortable influences over all the Grand Lodges of the United States," expresses a belief that a settlement of the trouble is "almost hopeless" and advises the selection of arbitrators from some foreign jurisdiction who shall fix some equitable basis of settlement.

There is something so lovely, so generous, so disinterested, so thoroughly Masonic in this advice that one is almost tempted to be sorry that it cannot be followed for the reason that all cause for it was removed by agreement between the parties to the dispute a month before the advice was given. The advice was given on the 15th of March: a conference at Montreal had agreed upon terms of settlement between Canada and Quebec on the 17th of the previous month. While good advice is so good in itself that the giver need not be concerned to know whether there is or is not any occasion for it, we might be permitted to suggest that, even a Masonic editor should have some information touching the subjects upon which he writes. If the Montreal conference had been merely tentative—an experimental attempt to gauge Masonic sentiment—the *Jewel* might have supposed that it would effect nothing, and that its finding would not be accepted by both Grand Bodies; but its editor before writing upon the subject should have informed himself sufficiently to know that the negotiators on both sides had been granted plenary powers to effect a final settlement of all differences between the two bodies.

We would not feel moved to censure this trifling lapse on the part of our brother very severely; but there are some things in his article which appear not quite so innocent as a little misinformation merely. For example, he quietly assumes that both Canada and Quebec were "perpetrating a great outrage on the body of Masonry," by failing to heal their differences, at the very moment when he unconsciously reveals the potent reason for those differences not being healed. "Various Grand Lodges," he says, "have taken sides in this family quarrel . . . Some of our Grand Lodges have even encouraged its [*sic*] members to pass over into Quebec and pat the back of its Grand Body, and urge on the battle, and the result thus far appears to be to widen the breach and make a settlement of the trouble almost hopeless." This, we grieve