

The Canadian Craftsman.*Port Hope, June 15, 1886.***THE QUEBEC-ENGLAND DIFFICULTY.**

M. W. Bro. Frank R. Lawrence, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York, in the course of a long and able address, thus refers to the Quebec question:—

The relations of this Grand Lodge with other Grand bodies have remained of the most fraternal and harmonious character. Elsewhere throughout the Masonic world, such appears also to be the general condition of affairs. A single exception exists to this happy state, arising out of the pending matter of difference between the Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge of Quebec, which was brought to my notice in August last, by the transmission of papers from the last-named Grand body, including an edict proclaiming certain lodges located at Quebec and working under the authority of the Grand Lodge of England, irregular and illegal. The dispute thus communicated to the Masonic world is one of long standing, and presents little that is new to those conversant with Masonic affairs. The Grand Lodge of Quebec was formed in 1869, in territory which at that time was under the jurisdiction of the Ancient Grand Lodge of Canada, organized eleven years before. The lodges now declared to be irregular, were in existence before the establishment of the last-named Grand Lodge, and have always retained their obedience to the Grand Lodge of England, declining to place themselves under the jurisdiction either of the Grand Lodge of Canada or of Quebec. The latter Grand Lodge claims that as a consequence of its establishment and general recognition, it acquired such exclusive jurisdiction within the territory accorded to it, as to render it the duty of all the lodges previous-

ly erected therein to sever their existing allegiance and place themselves under its control. The Grand Lodge of England, besides disputing the soundness of the principle here asserted, declares that its recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada was made and accepted with the express condition that the English lodges within the territory of that Grand body were to continue undisturbed in their allegiance and privileges, and in view of this arrangement it is contended that when, in 1869, the Grand Lodge of Quebec became the successor to the Grand Lodge of Canada, it acquired no greater rights within the territory to which it succeeded, than had previously been possessed by the latter Grand body. As to the compact claimed to have been made between the Grand Lodges of England and Canada, the English contention is fully supported by the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence made to this Grand Lodge in 1871, which committee, before recommending the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Quebec, appears to have given exhaustive attention to this general subject as it then existed. While fully believing in the American doctrine of the supreme and exclusive jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge within the territory which it controls, I do not consider that that doctrine should extend to the length of rendering Masonic bodies previously enjoying a lawful existence within such territory clandestine and illegal, because of their refusal to abandon their original allegiance and place themselves under the authority of the newly-created Grand Lodge. The Grand Master of Masons in this State, in 1879, in addressing this Grand Lodge upon the subject of the somewhat similar issue then raised by Quebec as against the Grand Lodge of Scotland, expressed the opinion that the general current of authority is opposed to such a construction of the rights of a newly-created Grand Lodge; and in that