

THE RECENT NEGOTIATIONS IN QUEBEC.

We stated in the last number of the CRAFTSMAN the proceedings which had been taken by the Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master, under the resolution of Grand Lodge, with a view to a settlement of the disputes which had arisen in the Province of Quebec. The meeting held on the 13th September, was, as we have learned, very largely attended, all the lodges working under the Grand Lodge of Canada, with one exception, being represented; the worshipful master of the excepted Lodge having signified in writing his views on the subject. The question at that meeting was fully and frankly discussed, the only difference of opinion arising, not on matters of substance, but of form, as to the best mode of proceeding. It was at last agreed to appoint a committee to confer with one to be appointed by the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, and the meeting adjourned with the understanding that it should again be called together after the conference to confirm whatever decision might be arrived at. The Committee organized by appointing M. W. Bro. Stevenson, Chairman, and R. W. Bro. White, Secretary; and these brethren at once communicated with R. W. Bro. Isaacson, the Grand Secretary of the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, informing him of the appointment of a Committee and asking that one might be named by his Grand Master to confer with it. The application received prompt attention; the Committee was appointed; and the two Committees met on the 21st instant to consider the questions at issue. The protocols of the conference we publish elsewhere, and we invite the reader's attention to them.

We confess that when we first received them, we were amazed at the extent to which the loyal brethren of Quebec had gone in their desire to restore peace to the craft. A perusal of the protocols convinced us that they had practically yielded everything. The first proposal submitted by the Committee from the lodges working under the Grand Lodge of Canada, ought to have been accepted it as a fair and reasonable basis of settlement. It was a proposal which, while recognizing the existence of the so-called Grand Lodge, and accepting it as it stood, recognized equally certain rights in the lodges which, in obedience to their solemn obligation of allegiance to the Grand Lodge, had refused to join in the movement which led to its formation. It proposed a union upon such terms that both the parties could enter it with their self-respect, their *amour propre*, unassailed; and therefore it proposed a union which would be lasting in its effects, and which would have tended to the peace and prosperity of the united body. It was met by a practical negative! Look at the alterations proposed in it, and it will be seen that not one feature was accepted. From the outset thus, as appears from these protocols, there was a studious resolve on the part of the Quebec seceders to yield nothing, and to accept union only on