

becomes obstinacy, and then drifts into obstruction. Bro. Robinson doubtless believes there is a necessity for the change he favors, but he should recollect that other brethren hold beliefs also. The proper way to make converts is by appealing to the reason of one's hearers, and not by forcing upon them objectionable doctrines. Coercion never produces adhesion.

Our columns are open to a discussion of this subject, but we urge correspondents to state their case as briefly as possible.

GRAND LODGE OF QUEBEC.

The suggestion made in the July number of THE CRAFTSMAN that the Grand Lodge of Canada should throw aside its indifference and endeavour to heal the rupture between the Grand Lodges of England and Quebec, met with general approval. The motion introduced by W. Bro. Daniel Rose, and seconded by Past Grand Master Spry, which appears in our summary of the proceedings, was warmly received, and almost unanimously adopted, one vote being cast against it.

We learn by correspondence from several brethren in Quebec, especially in Montreal, where the evils consequent on the unseemly quarrel are more keenly and directly experienced, than elsewhere, that our remarks received general commendation, members of both jurisdictions taking it as an omen of the approaching end of their troubles. W. Bro. Rose's intimate knowledge of the subject enabled him to state his case with great clearness and earnestness, and when he advanced reasons why mediation should be offered by Canada he struck a chord that aroused the sympathy of the brethren.

Past Grand Master Murray took exception to the motion, on the ground that as Louisiana had offered to mediate between England and Quebec, and had been "snubbed" by England, Canada should not run the risk of receiving similar treatment. Grand Master Walkem favoured the motion and

pointed out that England, instead of rebuffing Louisiana, merely affirmed the position she had taken. Even if Louisiana had been saubbed for her good intentions that should not have prevented Canada offering to act as mediator. Canada is in a different position than Louisiana, being more closely allied with both the disputants; and had every Grand body in the United States, or even in the world, offered and failed to secure a settlement of the difficulty, Canada would have been justified in tendering her good offices.

The London *Freemason* referring to the refusal of England to accept Louisiana's mediation, says no other course was open, as Quebec had never been officially recognized by England. The New Zealand *Masonic Journal* meets this argument thus:

"Of course the reason given is apparently a logical one, but nevertheless we think that the interests of Freemasonry would have been furthered if the Grand Lodge of England had set aside redtapism, and cordially accepted the very fraternal offer of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. A precedent was not wanted, seeing that the Prov. Grand Master of England (Lord Carrington) has recently acted as a mediator between the lodges under English rule in New South Wales and the body which claims to be the Grand Lodge of New South Wales, although the latter has not received recognition from the Grand Lodge of England."

Grand Master Walkem cheerfully accepted the duty imposed upon him by Grand Lodge, and as he will conduct the negotiations for a settlement personally, and not by correspondence, we anticipate success crowning his labors. We have confidence in the prudence and good sense of our brothers in England and Quebec, and doubt not but that all matters in dispute being judiciously laid before them will be finally and for ever settled.

The Hon. J. Belcher, Governor of the province of New England in 1740, was the first Mason initiated in America. He was made in 1704, or thirteen years before the re-organization of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717.