

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the CRAFTSMAN.

BRETHREN,—Please receive my sincere thanks for your liberality in giving space to my rather lengthy "Review of the Schism," and likewise for the fraternal manner in which you express your dissent from my deductions. Differences of opinion will arise among men, and a calm discussion of the same between intelligent parties will seldom fail to produce a salutary effect, especially among brethren. In view of these facts, I trust you will allow me a few words of explanation.

You dispute the correctness of my deductions from Grand Master Simpson's and also from Grand Master Wilson's address: I hold that what either of them said regarding the Act of Confederation was, that it effected the status and position of the Grand Lodge of Canada; in fact Grand Master Wilson used the word "effect," and *you*, in the CRAFTSMAN January, 1868, declare that the Confederation scheme can in no way *affect* the territorial jurisdiction of the G. L. of Canada. Now if these are not two different views; if to say on the one hand, "*the effect which it must, to some extent, have,*" and on the other, "*it can in no way affect the same,*" are not two distinct and opposite opinions then I have yet to learn the meaning of effect and affect.

Regarding your next observation on the report of the Committee, allow me to explain that, although the words of the resolution, as you quote them, were before me at the time I wrote my article, but that I felt myself justified in giving the *interpretation* thereof as I and you, as well as all, received it from one of the members of that committee, namely from Grand Master Stevenson himself, who in his address to Grand Lodge, 1st Dec., 1869, distinctly assures us "*that the question discussed in Committee was simply this: a Dominion Grand Lodge, or a Grand Lodge for each of the Provinces.*" Now we all know that the minority of the committee voted for the organization of a Grand Lodge in each of the four Provinces. Does it then not follow as a parity of reason that the majority voted in favour of a Dominion Grand Lodge, whether distinctly expressed in their report or merely implied?

You join issue with me as to my assertion that it ever was admitted that Confederation extends the jurisdiction of our Grand Lodge; or that Grand Master Wilson ever conceded the right of any Grand Lodge to establish lodges within our jurisdiction. Are you really serious? Does not Grand Master Simpson say that so soon as the Confederation of the Provinces takes place, the Grand Lodge of Canada is necessarily placed in precisely the same position in regard to the sister Provinces as the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland; and may at any time erect lodges in either of them. Can language be plainer than that? Does not he distinctly point out the extension of our jurisdiction through the Act of Confederation? If that power was possessed by the Grand Lodge of Canada from its birth, why does he use that language? And why did Grand Lodge approve of it? And did not Grand Master