

THE QUEBEC DIFFICULTY.

Our correspondent *Verax* whose communication appeared in the last number of the *CRAFTSMAN* again addresses us, and in lieu of replying to our remarks on his former communication, sends us an article from Pomeroy's *Democrat* which he says fairly states the case of the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec. We might fairly refuse insertion to this article, first on the ground that it ignores the real point in dispute between ourselves and our correspondent, and second by because it is written by one for whom we have already in a former issue expressed our great contempt, a breeder of strife and illwill, the common assailant of better men than himself, the ingrate whose first vigorous movements were employed to traduce the character of the brother to whose goodness of heart he owed his own restoration, upon what was supposed to be his death bed, to the privileges of Freemasonry from which he had before been most righteously expelled. But we ask our readers to forget for a moment that he to whom we refer is the writer of the article, to forget for a moment that it is to his bad counsels and those of another representative of a foreign Grand Lodge that the non-settlement of the unfortunate differences between the craft in the Province of Quebec is due, and to look at the article as a simple argument in favor of the case of the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec.

First it will be seen that the argument is based entirely upon the extreme rights of the Quebec brethren, assuming their Grand Lodge to have been correctly formed, and their control of the territory of the Province to be undoubted. That unfortunately is not the point in dispute between *Verax* and ourselves. What is ignored in this defence is that in the appointing of a committee to meet the committee of the lodges hailing from the Grand Lodge of Canada, extreme rights were supposed to be given up on both sides. There was no necessity for the appointment of a committee of conference, if it was intended to ignore its proceedings and fall back upon assumed extreme rights. Were such the intention of Bro. Graham, his acceptance of a proposal for conference, and his appointment of a committee was insulting alike to the gentlemen appointed and to those they were to meet. What we pointed out in the first article on this unfortunate business was that assuming concession and compromise to be necessary in order to bring about harmony, and this assumption was implied in the appointment of a committee of conference, then nothing could be more reasonable, more fair, more conciliatory than was the position taken by the representatives of the Canadian lodges. They simply said, "take us as we are;" and the reply was, "we will not take you as you are; we will take you only on terms humiliating to you. Acknowledge that you have been wrong throughout; acknowledge that the Grand Lodge which you acknowledge as your mother Grand Lodge,