

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.

NON-INTERCOURSE WANTED.

To the Editor of the CRAFTSMAN.

In these times of masonic apathy in this province, the correspondence of the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Quebec seems quite refreshing. The correspondence, as detailed in the proceedings of Grand Chapter, is such a precursor of the many truths produced for the enlightenment of the Grand Mark Master Mason of England in the correspondence that has taken place since the meeting of Grand Chapter in January last. It is manifestly evident that the Grand Z. appreciates the rights of the Grand Chapter, and the duties devolving on him as its chief executive during the call off from labor of the Grand Chapter. I have no doubt the Grand Mark Master of England will come to the conclusion that the man is mad, as he will, no doubt, suppose no sane man could deluge the superior clay and blue blood of old England with such an avalanche of contempt, justly called forth by the exasperating lamb-like innocence of the correspondence on the part of England. It is to be hoped, as the King said of Wolfe, that he will bite the other Generals; and if the process should galvanize the Grand Master of Quebec into life and action, so much the better for the state of masonry in the province. No man could have done better in his address to Grand Lodge than did our present Grand Master. No man could, apparently, have done less than he has done during the last five months. His address had the true ring about it. It seemed to indicate that he was a man who could be trusted to look after the rights of the Grand Lodge of Quebec. In his address, he told us how often the Grand Lodge had declared her supremacy. How often the preceding Grand Masters had been instructed

by Grand Lodge to do the one thing needful—to render practical that declaration of supremacy, and in doing so, he told us how often preceding Grand Masters had failed to carry out the high trust reposed in them by the great body of the craft in this province. Let me quote from his address:—"The time for action has arrived." "Let us either exercise our constitutional privileges, and maintain the landmarks, or hereafter hold our peace. We have done all in our power to obtain an amicable adjustment of these differences. I advise that we now assert our rights—avow our position. That all who are not with us are against us, and declare masonic non-intercourse with those lodges who will not array themselves beneath our banner and join our register. This to be preceded by due notice." It is not to be forgotten that the Committee on the State of Masonry recommended that the course indicated by the G. M. be followed, and that report was received and adopted by Grand Lodge (see Proceedings, January, 1884, page 61). Why, then, has not due notice been given? Are the members of the craft to understand that we are to accept the other alternative referred to by the Grand Master, viz.: to content ourselves with the delusive declaration that we are a Sovereign Grand Body? Perish the thought. If such is the case, it were better that such an address as that of the G. M. in January had never been made. Why should we hold ourselves up to be the laughing-stock of the whole masonic world? If we are destined to go on as we are, better say nothing about our wrongs and bear them like stoics. Unless we strike the blow that is to make us free, we cannot expect the Grand Lodge of the world to plunge into discord on our behalf, when we are seemingly prepared to accept matters as they are. Why should they bother about us? Heaven helps them that helps themselves, is an old adage, and one not to be for-