

PEACE AND GOOD WILL.

WE have the greatest satisfaction in being able to announce, in this number of *THE CRAFTSMAN*, the adjustment of all differences between our brethren in the Province of Quebec. The minutes of a meeting of the representatives of the Lodges which have up to this time remained loyal to the Grand Lodge of Canada will sufficiently explain the preliminary steps taken towards an amicable settlement; and the protocols of the conference between the committees appointed by the Grand Masters of the Grand Lodges of Canada and Quebec, respectively, will explain the process by which a happy solution of the difficulties was arrived at. It may be worth while, however, to trace briefly the steps which have been taken since the Grand Lodge of Canada delegated to its subordinates in the Province of Quebec the settlement of all questions in dispute.

It is not necessary to refer particularly to the conference of 1871. The protocols of that conference have already been published, and they recited but one feeling—that of profound regret that the Grand Lodge of Quebec had rejected terms so eminently liberal as those which were embodied in the conclusions arrived at. It is proper, however, to say that one of the objections to these terms arose from the impression that the committee appointed by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec had no power to deal with the question at all, and were acting *ultra vires* in meeting the Canada committee as they had met it. The knowledge of this reason bore its fruit. It convinced the leading Canadian Masons within the Province of Quebec that if, in the future, any attempt was made to settle the unfortunate differences, care should be taken that the committees were so officially authorized in advance as to prevent the possibility of any such miscarriages. This determination has really been the cause of the delay up to this time, but we are satisfied that it was wisely taken, and will be found, in the future, to have been of immense advantage. In all the correspondence which has taken place, since 1871, between the Grand Master and the leading members of the Grand Lodge of Canada residing in our sister Province, this point was made a *sine qua non* by the latter, that before any meeting about to take place, the Grand Lodge of Quebec should pass a resolution authorizing the appointment of a committee and binding itself in advance to accept the finding of any conference to which that committee should be a party. We have the best reason for believing that this position was not taken out of a spirit of hostility to the Grand Lodge of Quebec, but from a conviction that in no other way could any attempt be made, with comparatively certain prospect of success, at a solution of difficulties, and a restoration of that peace and harmony which should always characterize Freemasonry.

In the conclusions arrived at, and which are embodied in the official protocols which we print in this number, one fact is evident, viz: that the conference resolved to leave no questions open which might in the future cause heartburnings and dissensions. In this our brethren have acted with great wisdom. In the very nature of things a settlement such as that arrived at must be a matter of compromise. It was impossible that any terms could be adopted which would be absolutely satisfactory to either party; and if in the carrying out of the terms anything had been left to the chances of the future, great risk must have been run that difficulties would arise. The one essential feature of