

Draft in New Zealand is impeded by "concurrent jurisdiction," and also how very necessary it is for the Masons of this Colony to take early steps to remove the heavy burden and unite all the Lodges under the single banner of a Grand Lodge of New Zealand.—*New Zealand Freemason.*

QUEBEC.

THE publishers of the *Masonic Chronicle* recently received a letter enclosing draft for subscription from a brother in Illinois, and containing the following, which we copy *verbatim*:

"Of course it would make no difference what any one of your subscribers think of the policy pursued by the management of the paper, hence I have no inclination to criticize yours; but for one I would be pleased to have you explain, in as brief and concise an article as possible, how a number of Lodges in an unoccupied territory (less than the whole) can form a Grand Lodge for that political division and afterwards *force* or *coerce* the unwilling minority of Lodges into affiliation with itself, when no Lodge can *force* or *coerce* any Master Mason in good standing into membership, or to change his membership from a Lodge remote from his residence, which may be, or is in its jurisdiction, to itself."

We have to confess that when we first perused the above we felt somewhat in the dark as to the meaning of the writer. It was certainly a peculiar proposition that there could be "a number of Lodges in an unoccupied territory," but we finally came to the conclusion that what was meant was unoccupied by a Grand Lodge, and that the further quotation, "political division" was intended for particular.

This having been settled, we then endeavored to grasp the idea as to what part of the "management" had called out the questions. We are not sure that we have it straight yet, but we have come to the conclusion that it in some way relates to the Quebec muddle. If so, we will endeavor to put our brother on the right track.

When the Grand Lodge of England acceded to the desire of the Canadian brethren for a separation from their jurisdiction, it appears that there was some sort of an agreement that certain Lodges should still hold their allegiance to the Mother Grand Lodge.

So far so good.

When the Grand Lodge of Quebec was formed from the Grand Lodge of Canada, there was no reiteration of this condition, and as each Grand Lodge should undoubtedly be sovereign in its jurisdiction, attempts were made to persuade the foreign Lodges to come into the fold.

Neither force nor coercion were then thought of.

The negotiations all fell through and there was seemingly peace. In the meantime one of these foreign Lodges perpetrated a most flagrant un-Masonic act. It knowingly accepted material which had been rejected in a Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada. Remonstrances to the Grand Lodge of England, instead of bringing justice, brought justification of the illegal act; and thus was brought about the war which now wages.

It has never been attempted to force or coerce, but the Grand Lodge of England has been pleaded with to withdraw the warrants of these three Lodges and give over to the Grand Lodge of Quebec its just rights.

Such, my brother, is the answer of the management to your enquiries as we understand them. If they are not perfectly satisfactory, please let us hear from you again.—*The Masonic Chronicle.*