

Correspondence.

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

Editor of THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN.

Having for some years been a constant reader of THE CRAFTSMAN, and having, with but few exceptions, a complete file of its twenty-one years of life, I, and I think that I but echo the sentiments of many others, wish to thank you for your continual and effective advocacy of the claims of the Grand Bodies of Quebec for sovereignty.

I am particularly well pleased with the many good points given in your November issue.

Your replies to *The (London) Freemason* and *The Freemasons' Chronicle* are exceedingly well taken, and I wish that they might be read by every English Mason and their friends; perhaps it might open their eyes to the fact that their two leading periodicals do not always represent things as they are.

It is very amusing to us, who while making no pretensions to "vast mental calibre" have and do uphold a law that has been proven a correct one, to be so roundly abused by the quill drivers of sheets that even "we aboriginies" would consider "penny a liners" were they published with us; however, we can stand it, and while it makes us laugh, we feel sorry for their ignorance.

If the editors of these periodicals would see for themselves, Masonry as it is in this continent—if they would study and watch the effects of our dogma of Grand Lodge Sovereignty, I am quite confident that their views would undergo a material change; but when they quote as authority parties in Montreal who are what they are, and particularly one who is at present under the ban of suspension for disobedience to his superior officer, they must expect to be misled.

Would those editors look more closely into affairs, they might find that the intellectual, social and political status of the present and past Grand Officers of the Grand Bodies of Quebec are on a par with any—many of them have what some of our English office branch have not, viz: common sense. They too might find, that the Masonry of the present day is not confined within the small island of England; they might also discover the fact that the Masons of the British Colonies are the peers of those "at home."

The spirit of Masonic independence has made rapid strides within the past two decades! Our English brothers may as well make up their minds one time as another, that the Masons of the Colonies propose to govern themselves; they dislike to be governed by, and pay tribute to, a governing body hundreds of miles from them; they rightly think that they know enough to govern themselves. The Grand Lodge of England may forbid discussion in their Lodges, as they have in New South Wales; they may threaten as they have in Quebec; they may remonstrate, expel and use all the force they can, but her colonies will be, sooner or later, independent (Masonically), and the sooner that English Masons accept the inevitable, the better for the whole Masonic world.

We in the United States, with our 600,000 Masons, have faithfully tried the dogma of Grand Lodge Sovereignty; our increased prosperity fully demonstrates that the dogma is a good one, yet we do not wish to force that dogma on soil not our own, as does the Grand Bodies of England endeavor to force their dogma of concurrent jurisdiction on soil not their own.

If our Grand Lodges live up to their oft repeated declarations on Grand Lodge Sovereignty they must coincide with Quebec; but if they are false to those declarations—if they do not practice what they preach, then they must say that English theory is right.