

between the Grand Lodges of Quebec and England with respect to the status of two or three lodges in Quebec which maintain their connection with the Grand Lodge of England, and which are very properly supported by that Grand Lodge in their constitutional rights. But, although those few lodges have every legal right to maintain their connection with their chartering Grand Lodge, we certainly consider that they are most unwise to do so, and that for the sake of Masonic unity they should, without delay, throw in their lot with the Grand Lodge of Quebec. It has been for the special benefit of the Freemasons in Quebec that *The Freemason* has been expatiating on "concurrent jurisdiction," and we would have taken no exception to its continuing to do so if it had not held up as glorious examples of the system the various Colonies, and especially Victoria. The case of Victoria was a most unfortunate one for our contemporary to mention, as it is so well known to the Masonic world that the Craft in that Colony is torn by faction, and that for years a section of the Craft therein has recognized the rule of an illegally-formed Grand Lodge, which might at the present time be occupying as proud a position as the Grand Lodge of South Australia, but for high-handed and unconstitutional proceedings on the part of a District Grand Master of the E. C. "Concurrent Jurisdiction" may be a very suitable heading for an essay or article on Masonry in the Colonies, and will, no doubt, give ample scope for enlarging on the beauties of brotherly love, and of drawing a pretty picture of Lodges under different Constitutions working in harmony side by side; but, desirable as it may appear in theory, in practice it is a total failure. Europe has rejected it, the United States have rejected it, Canada has rejected it, South Australia has rejected it, Victoria and New South Wales have made strenuous efforts to abolish it,

and England, Ireland, and Scotland, within their own boundaries, will have none of it. The New Zealand Craft has not yet taken any step to free itself from the crushing incubus of "concurrent jurisdiction;" but we know that there is a very strong feeling against it, and that eventually this Colony will also shake off the yoke. In fact, the system is a thoroughly vicious one, and is only tolerated in the Colonies at all because of the great difficulty of doing away with it and planting one united Grand Lodge in its place. We write from long experience of the craft in this part of the world, and our opinions have constantly gained strength since we first dealt with the subject in this journal in March, 1882. What does "concurrent jurisdiction" mean to us in New Zealand? In a few words, it means the system by which the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland, and all other Grand Lodges, have full right to establish Lodges at will in New Zealand, which Lodges would be subject only to the Grand Lodge which granted their charters, and not governed alike by the same laws and regulations. This, in the abstract; is what "concurrent jurisdiction" means; and, unfortunately, it brings with it a train of evils which sap the life-blood of the Craft and prevent its material progress,—jealousy between Lodges; granting of unnecessary charters; admission of persons without due enquiry; multiplicity of District and Provincial Grand Lodges, also with concurrent jurisdiction; expenditures in keeping up, which absorb funds that would otherwise be available for charity; District and Provincial Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers almost as numerous as Past Masters; diverse working; diverse clothing; remittance of large sums to the United Kingdom that should be utilised for a Benevolent Fund here, &c. Want of space prevents our continuing the subject in the present number, or we might go on and show how materially the