

uncertain sound in thus asserting our claim to supreme authority over both Upper and Lower Canada.

We shall now proceed to consider some of the other points raised by this controversy, although perhaps it may be supposed that in thus summarily disposing of the question as to the legality of the recent movement, we leave but little to discuss, but, as *we* regard the matter, there still remains much of importance which will require the careful and prudent consideration of Grand Lodge in July. Thus far, our seceding brethren appear determined to maintain the position they have assumed as an independent grand body, and in this course they have been encouraged by a recognition from one of our sister Grand Lodges, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. We have no hesitation in asserting it as our belief that if our Quebec brethren had only taken the proper means to satisfy the members of Grand Lodge that a separation was desired by them, no opposition would have been offered; the masons of Ontario could have no motive, either financial or otherwise, to retain them against their inclinations, and even now, as was publicly stated at the emergent meeting in December last, if our brethren would withdraw from the position they have prematurely assumed, and satisfy Grand Lodge that the desire for separation is unanimous or nearly so, that some means would be promptly devised by which their wishes could be constitutionally and amicably carried out.

In dealing with this matter, the rulers of the craft must not forget the grave responsibility which rests upon them, and that, however desirous we may all feel to see fraternal relations restored, we must not overlook the duty we owe to the craft at large, and this duty and this responsibility has been clearly defined by a talented brother, R. P. Stephens, Esq., in a recent letter, which appeared in the columns of a contemporary. For the benefit of our readers we shall here quote from the very able letter referred to:

"If we were to accede to the demands of our Quebec brethren, recognize their proceedings, and give our countenance and support to the doctrines they have enunciated, we should belie our conscientious convictions of what are the universal principles of Masonic law—discourage and virtually cast off the many lodges and brethren in Quebec who, in face of many temptations and difficulties, still stand true to their allegiance, and have a right to demand our sympathy and support,—lend our sanction to the doctrine that Ontario is unoccupied territory, and encourage subordinate lodges under our jurisdiction to withdraw their allegiance whenever moved by anger or caprice, and form themselves into a separate Grand Lodge, and command obedience—we should proclaim to our brethren throughout the world that the Lodges in any section of a country may legally separate from their parent Grand Lodge, and form themselves into an independent body, and that