

The report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, is the most interesting and exhaustive of any which have come under our notice, its reference to European Grand Lodges being especially valuable.

M. W. Bro. James Gibson was re-elected Grand Master, and R. W. Bro. James M. Austin, Grand Secretary.

THE QUEBEC SECESSION.

OPINION OF MASONIC AUTHORITIES.

We copied last week from the *Freemasons' Magazine*, published in London, England, an article on the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec. We propose following this up with extracts from American authorities on the same subject. We do this not in a spirit of hostility to our brethren in the sister Province, but in the interest of sound masonic principles. They, as well as the Freemasons of Ontario, should be, and we are quite sure are, concerned for the prevalence of correct opinions on questions of masonic authority and jurisdiction. The question of convenience is an entirely separate one, to be determined by each jurisdiction for itself, with the concurrence of the ruling masonic body. There will be time enough to discuss this point, in relation to the present Canadian masonic crisis, before the next meeting of Grand Lodge. It will facilitate that discussion very materially to have the points of law first clearly laid down; and it is with this view that we give the extracts following:

Pro. Frank Gouley, in *The Freemason*, after quoting from the circular issued by the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, says:—

"The first is wholly untenable, for the reason that it is based on the masonic heresy, that 'political divisions affect the jurisdictional limits of Grand Lodges.' Any argument based upon this premise must fall to the ground.

"No political power in the world possesses within itself the legal or constitutional right to create a Grand Lodge or circumscribe its jurisdiction. And no state or government can, by changing its boundaries, change those of masonic bodies, and it is not a usage of masonry to recognise such interference, but to preserve to itself the supreme control of its own affairs. We hold, in conjunction with the soundest and safest masonic minds of this and other countries, that when the jurisdictional limits of Grand Lodges are once defined, and recognized by sister masonic powers, that those limits are *perpetual* until the Grand Lodge itself shall make an alteration of its own boundaries.

"Any other theory would be subversive of the fundamental principles of international masonic amity and rights. It would be placing Freemasonry at the mercy of the caprices and whims of politicians and governments, thus destroying the very harmony of our institution, which has outlived the rise and fall of empires."

Bro. Gouley then refers to the case of West Virginia, which has been quoted as an example, and says:—

"Some few Grand Lodges in the United States did, in the heat of a dreaded conflict, forgetting the duties they owed to a sister Grand Lodge with whom they were at peace, recognize the Grand Lodge of West Virginia, but after mature reflection the recognition stopped, and it was not until October, 1869, that this Grand Lodge extended its recognition, and only then because the Grand Lodge of Virginia compromised the matter."

He then proceeds to say:—

"It is now about time that the American Grand Lodges should put a stop to this sort of imperfect and inconsistent sort of legislation, and take the new Grand Lodge of Quebec as an example, whereby to set themselves straight on the record for all