

countenance. Legislation of this character is injudicious and unnecessary. The Master has full authority to enforce order in his lodge, and his prerogative in this respect should be carefully preserved, and should not be made even to appear to depend upon a by-law of the lodge.

"There are two other points in which mistakes are constantly made: One is in providing that the auditors shall be appointed by the Master, whereas the constitution requires that they shall be elected by ballot. The other is in providing for the election and composition of committees, whereas the constitution (clause 122) imposes on the Master the duty of appointing all standing committees for conducting the business of the lodge, except the auditors. Many by-laws proposed to make the Master *ex-officio* a member of all committees, a provision which, even if not inconsistent with the clause I have just referred to, is objectionable on other grounds.

"The Master presides in the lodge when the reports of committees are discussed, and it is important that, so presiding, he shall not have prejudged the matter under discussion, and shall be entirely free from bias in respect of it.

"By a circular, dated at Sydney, on the 1st September, 1888, I have been advised of the formation of the 'United Grand Lodge of New South Wales.' The Grand Lodge of New South Wales was formed in the year 1877, but several of the lodges, working in connection with the Mother Grand Lodge, at first declined to join it. So far as I know, all the lodges have now joined, and a new Grand Lodge has been formed under the title which I have mentioned. The Grand Master, Lord Carrington, who is governor of the colony, asks from our Grand Lodge official and fraternal recognition.

"I have also been advised of the formation on the 20th March, 1889, of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, of Victoria, and of the election of the Hon. Sir W.

J. Clark, baronet, as its first Grand Master. In the formation of this Grand Lodge, 142 out of 145 lodges in the colony, heretofore under the English, Irish, Scotch and Victorian constitutions, joined.

"The Grand Master prefers a similar request for recognition to that made by the Grand Master of New South Wales.

"Within the last few days I have also received a circular from the Grand Master of the New Grand Lodge of North Dakota. This Grand Lodge has been formed by the division of the territory of Dakota into two parts, following its political division, into the States of North and South Dakota.

"I am informed that the New Grand Lodge was formed on the 13th June, 1889, with the full consent of the Grand Lodge of Dakota, and in pursuance of the report of a committee of that body, and that it has been recognized as an independent Grand Lodge by that body.

"The Grand Master, James W. Cloes, asks for recognition by our Grand Lodge.

"I have much pleasure in recommending a cordial compliance with these requests, and I wish the new Grand Lodges God-speed in their career of usefulness."

Bro. Walkem announced that he had appointed R. W. Bro. Horsfall, representative near the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, and R. W. Bros. Traves and McLellan representatives near the Grand Lodge of Canada of the Grand Lodges of Delaware and Illinois, respectively. Referring to those appointments, he said:—

"I would also recommend that no brother hold more than a limited number of appointments, to be determined by Grand Lodge.

"Grand Lodge had, on the 31st May, 1888, a capital of \$69,243.43, of which \$60,000 was invested. I observe that from 1868 to 1888, a period of twenty years, our capital has been increased from \$35,340.70 to \$69,243.43. The interest on the invested capital, \$60,000, for the year ending 31st May, 1888,