

By Bro William Hilson Pigott, P. M. of the Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 1653, Sydney, New South Wales, against the ruling of the District Grand Master of New South Wales, that a motion proposed by the said Bro. W. H. Pigott for discussion at the District Grand Lodge was irregular, and could not be considered thereat.

Bro. F. A. Philbrick, Q. C., G. Registrar, in laying the appeal before Grand Lodge, said the motion which the District Grand Master of New South Wales ruled to be out of order was a somewhat lengthened one. It would be in the recollection of Grand Lodge that in the district of New South Wales there were many lodges which owed allegiance to and held under the Grand Lodge of England. There were other lodges which were held under other jurisdictions. But a body had been established, or had established itself, within the District of New South Wales which styled itself the Grand Lodge of New South Wales. In 1881 Grand Lodge of England declined to recognise that body as a lawfully constituted Masonic Body on the ground that it was irregularly constituted. The motion of which the brother appealing desired to give notice was, 'That in the opinion of this District Grand Lodge it would be for the good of Freemasonry in general and to this Colony in particular that a Grand Lodge should exist in this Colony, that the above opinion be immediately forwarded to the Grand Lodge of England, with an intimation that this District Grand Lodge, having the prosperity of the Craft at heart, and being anxious to exert its best endeavors to promote the general principles of the art and the good thereof, respectfully prays for the permission of the Grand Lodge of England to hold a conference with the body calling itself the Grand Lodge of New South Wales, with the object of agreeing and uniting with the said body in the formation of a Grand Lodge of New South Wales, and to negotiate and agree with the said body upon all matters affecting or incidental to the

formation of the said Grand Lodge.' The notice of motion was probably given because the District Grand Master had interfered with, and prevented the discussion in District Grand Lodge of another motion, of which notice was given, to the effect that the time had arrived when, in the interest of Freemasonry in the colony of New South Wales there should be a union in Grand Lodge of New South Wales of all persons who had been initiated in any Masonic Lodge under any Constitution, and that there should be a committee of officers and representatives of Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland upon the matter. The District Grand Master interfered, no doubt, on the ground that it was not competent for a District Grand Lodge, which derived its authority from the warrant conferred upon him by the Grand Master, to discuss a motion of that nature. The brother thereupon withdrew his first notice, and gave the second, which the District Grand Master forbade the discussion of, and the present appeal was brought. It must be evident to any brother who had followed him in reading these motions that the second notice practically brought before the District Grand Lodge the discussion of the same matters as were involved in the first, and, it was quite clear that no District or Provincial Grand Lodge could possibly discuss or entertain a proposition of the nature referred to in the resolution, notice of which Bro. Pigott gave. The high authority of a District Grand Lodge was derivative. Recognizing other Masonic bodies was a matter on which the Grand Lodge of England acted for itself, with a knowledge of the responsibility which it bore in taking action, and with a full sense of the weight which that action imperilled. It was an authority which Grand Lodge would not delegate to any other body, and more particularly when, as in the present case, it had declined to recognize the body styling itself the Grand