

The second decision reported covers so interesting and, we believe, so unusual an incident, that, notwithstanding its length, we quote it as given :—

Q. 1. The candidate for third Degree having passed through the work of the first section of the Degree, has passed the south and west gates, and arrived at the east gate, in the progress of the work of the second section. At this point he utterly refuses to proceed, and demands to be taken from the Lodge, which demand is complied with. What is his Masonic status ?

2. The candidate, some months later, asking to proceed, does an objection from a Brother debar him from being finished up as a M. M. ?

A. 1. The Masonic status of the candidate is that of a Master Mason, but not with all the rights and privileges appertaining to the Degree. He would not have the right to visit the Lodge in third Degree, because he has not received all the secrets of the Degree. His status would be, not altogether, but something like that of a non-affiliated or an excluded Mason. He has the rights of a Mason, except those afforded by the Lodge.

He is a Master Mason obligated, and would be liable to discipline for a violation of his obligation. He is a Master Mason without those essential attributes that would confer upon him the rights, privileges and benefits of that Degree.

It is the right of the Master to finish up the work commenced upon the application of the candidate, notwithstanding objection from any member of the Lodge. The objection is not one that comes within the letter or spirit of Section 7, Article 10, Constitution.

It is not an objection to advancement, within the meaning of that section, any more than it would be in any case where, for any reason, the work of conferring the Degree had been interrupted, as in case of a sudden sickness.

The fact is, the candidate has been advanced, and the objection comes too late.

It is the prerogative of every Master, subject to constitutional prohibition or restriction, to finish up any work he may have commenced, as much so as to convene or close his Lodge at pleasure, or admit or deny admission to any member. It is one of those powers for which he is only accountable to the Grand Lodge, and then only for abuse thereof.

Admitted the Master's right and prerogative to finish the work interrupted by the previous refusal of the candidate to further proceed, would he be *justified* in exercising it if he has reason to believe that good grounds exist for the objection made ? We hold that the completion of the work would be entirely at the Master's discretion.

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