

the new-framed Constitution underwent various changes in course of time, not merely in matters of detail, but upon very essential points; and will no doubt undergo other changes in the future.

When the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Canada was framed, it was wisely resolved not to insert any clause which might be construed, as it may be done by the clause on Appeal in the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England, that the masonic fraternity believes in, and adheres to, the doctrine that there are human beings who are possessed of one of the attributes of the G. A. O. T. U.—that is, of infallibility—and that their Grand Master, for the time being, and while he holds that high and honorable position, is one of them. That this infallibility, however, he only possesses while in office.

10. To assert that admitting an appeal against the Grand Master's decision, would produce endless confusion, is rather presumptive, especially as regards suspensions, which materially effects and concerns the interest of the Craft; but, certain it is that any brother or Lodge thus suspended, and debarred all chance of appeal, which necessarily includes a hearing, though the brother or Lodge may feel aggrieved, and feel able to show that the whole rests upon a misunderstanding, but prevented from doing so—such a state of things will not fail to create discord and kindred emotions, and tend the more strongly to bring our noble fraternity into disrepute and disunity than the most full discussion of the subject in Grand Lodge.

11. That the Grand Master, during the time Grand Lodge is not in session, is not the Grand Lodge, but, as the presiding officer of that Body, has power to perform certain functions, of which he is to give an account in the form of an Address to Grand Lodge at its annual communication, which Address is then submitted to a committee (B. G. P.) to report thereon; and that it has occurred that in that report, on being presented to and adopted by Grand Lodge, not every part of that Address has been confirmed or endorsed—thereby showing that the Grand Lodge has supreme superintending power, and does exercise it; while at other times Grand Lodge, by confirming a suspension inflicted by the Grand Master, has shown that it possesses the power to take into consideration, to discuss, and take a vote on a decision of the Grand Master. The same power is shown and exercised by refusing to grant a Warrant to a Lodge working under dispensation from the Grand Master.

That the Constitution distinctly declares of what the Grand Lodge shall consist:

“The Grand Lodge shall consist of the elective and appointed Officers (excepting the Grand Tyler, with all Past Grand Officers continuing to subscribe to a Lodge; the Masters and Wardens of all private Lodges (duly returned); and all Past Masters (duly returned), being members of private Lodges.”

How, then, can it be said that the Grand Master alone is the Grand Lodge? And that, since by the Constitution, “in the Grand Lodge alone resides the power of erasing Lodges and expelling brethren from the Craft,” it is distinctly shown that the Grand Lodge is a different, and also a superior Body to the Grand Master alone.

12. That to tell a brother who feels aggrieved by the Grand Master's decision, that his only remedy is—not to re-elect him, is about as cold-hearted a consolation as can easily be uttered. It is void of all fraternal