

against him. Absence of the brother complained of from the State, is not a sufficient reason to refuse an investigation.—Alabama, 1878, p. 14.

DIMIT.

1. A certificate of dimission is not legal, unless it bears the seal of the Lodge by which it is issued.—North Carolina, 1877, p. 15.

2. No certificate of dimission should be granted a brother against whom it is proposed to bring charges; if their validity is not sustained, then the certificate may be granted.—North Carolina, 1877, p. 15.

3. An applicant for dimission may withdraw his application at any moment before the announcement that the dimit is granted, has been made.—Illinois, 1878, p. 51.

4.—Every Mason in good standing, and clear of the books (Lodge dues), has the unqualified right to withdraw from his Lodge, and the Lodge must grant his request upon application. The vote is the *granting*, and the instant it is taken and decided the applicant ceases to be a member of the Lodge, and can only again become one by petition, reference, report, and clear ballot. The certificate, issued under the seal of the Lodge and certified by the Secretary, is simply a certificate or evidence of the fact that a dimit was granted, but is not of itself a dimit; hence, the withholding of the certificate does not change the relationship of the dimitted members to the Lodge, but only deprives them of a convenient form of this evidence. Dimits are never conditional; hence a vote taken to grant a dimit upon certain conditions is void, so far as compelling the applicant to comply with the conditions, but is nevertheless binding upon the Lodge. It therefore follows that when a Lodge votes a dimit to a member whose dues are unpaid, it virtually remits the dues in so doing, as it is then a voluntary matter with the brother to pay or not.—Iowa, 1878, p. 232.

5. That a member of a Lodge is entitled to a dimit as a right, and he cannot be compelled to pay a *pro rata* of the indebtedness of the Lodge before the dimit is granted.—Louisiana, 1879, p. 17.

6. A member of a neighboring Lodge, becoming dissatisfied, demits and now applies to my Lodge for the purpose of affiliating. Is it proper to receive his application? Answer—It is. It would seem that the only grounds in this case on which to base a doubt as to the propriety of receiving the application, are, did the Lodge err in granting the dimit, the reasons for demanding it being that