

W. Master in his ruling, and by instruction from the M. W. Grand Master, advised Bros. Rose and Martin, if they still felt aggrieved, to appeal to Grand Lodge, which appeal is now before the Board of General Purposes.

"This is a question of order, and should be immediately settled by Grand Lodge, as similar difficulties may again occur, where candidates for office are nominated previous to election. The question is, is the system of nominating candidates for office in private Lodges advisable? and if allowed, when a brother does not choose to vote for either of those nominated, can he vote blank, and will the blank count as a vote?"

And Bro. Martin did appeal as follows:

"I beg leave to appeal from the decision of W. M. Thomas Allan, of the St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 38, and also from the decision of the D. D. G. M., R. W. Bro. Milton, on the question of the election of S. W. of the St. Andrew's Lodge, at the communication held on the 9th December, 1873."

This appeal came before the Board of General Purposes as a Committee on Grievances and Appeals reported to Grand Lodge the following as the finding of said Board:

"That the ruling of the W. M. of St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 38, be not confirmed; and the Board declare—after due consideration and examination—Bro. Rose duly elected Senior Warden of that Lodge."

The following amendment was moved by R. W. Bro. Alexander Murray:

"That as it appears, the W. M. of St. Andrew's Lodge, in permitting nominations for office during the Annual Election, and in requesting every Brother to vote in said election, and in counting all ballots cast, whether Blanks or otherwise, as of the aggregate number of votes, did not therein violate any of the provisions of the Constitution, but did, on the contrary, act in good faith towards his Lodge, and to the respective candidates, according to the usages of the Lodge from which he formerly hailed, and as it appears, that on the second ballot being taken, there was an unmistakable majority in favor of the candidate declared elected, and subsequently installed; therefore, Grand Lodge now confirms and sustains the ruling and decision of the W. M. and D. D. G. M., and dismisses the appeal."

An animated discussion ensued as to the meaning of the constitutional requirement "votes present," some maintaining that the successful candidate should have at least 17 votes of the 32 brethren present, eligible to vote; while others, "that the common sense view of a paper without a name on it must be, that it went for nothing; that the number of votes present as required by the Constitution meant the number of ballots cast naming a Candidate, and that as 31 such