

of that jurisdiction to be entirely in accord with our own. Bro. Thorne decided "that the physical qualifications of a candidate for Masonry cannot be determined by the Grand Master. The Grand Master cannot issue a dispensation allowing a lodge to disobey a landmark of Masonry. Whether a candidate is such 'a hale man, sound, not deformed or dismembered' as the landmarks of Masonry prescribe to be eligible material for the Temple, is a question that must be settled by the conscientious judgment of the Master, and each brother of the lodge. If the Master of a lodge is not satisfied after thoroughly and scrupulously considering the matter, that the candidate is such a man, it will be his duty to report him."

I would earnestly impress upon the Worshipful Masters of lodges the duty of a strict compliance with the Laws of Grand Lodge and the general requirements of the Craft in respect of Masonic burial. In one case a lodge buried with Masonic honors a brother who had never affiliated with the Craft in this jurisdiction, and who was not a member of any lodge; in another case the Grand Secretary was applied to for information as to whether a dispensation would be issued to bury a brother who had been suspended for non-payment of dues; other applications have been made for dispensations to bury unaffiliated Masons; in one case a brother had accidentally shot himself, and there was much public sympathy with his family; in another a brother had withdrawn from his lodge, had resided some time in the United States and had not rejoined on his return. The burden or responsibility, or even trouble, of a decision in such cases, should not be thrown either upon the Grand Master or the Grand Secretary; but the Master of the lodge should, no matter what the local reasons pressing him to a contrary course, manfully do his duty as is clearly prescribed by the Constitutions. No unaffiliated Mason can be lawfully interred with Masonic honors—and no affiliated brother ought to be so interred unless at his own request. Our Constitutions make a liberal provision to meet the case of the stranger brother who may die within our jurisdiction. No Master of a lodge should ask for a dispensation to hold a Masonic funeral procession unless he is fully satisfied in his own mind that the circumstances of the case will justify a compliance with his request.

LODGE OF SORROW.

PARK LODGE, No. 516, held a Mourning Lodge at Lyric Hall, Sixth Avenue, on Wednesday Evening, September 8th, last, in memory of thirty-five of the members who had died from March 1, 1862, to June 28, 1875. In the centre of this Hall, which was densely crowded, was a catafalque appropriately draped, while on the sides and ends of the same were mourning escutcheons bearing each the name of one of the deceased. W. Bro. James B. Wood, Master, presided, and was ably assisted by his officers in the performance of the ritualistic ceremonies, which were according to the general usage. The music, both instrumental and vocal, was of a high character, and gave great satisfaction to the brethren and ladies and gentlemen present. At the close of the procession and ceremonies, W. Bro. Martin Cantlon delivered an address of some length, in which he dilated upon the lives and characters of the departed, which was followed by music, "*Vacant Chair*."

R. W. Bro. Thomas C. Cassidy, Past D. D. G. M., then delivered the following address, which was the gem of the evening:

"In many countries it has from time immemorial been the custom to strew the graves of the dead with flowers, as emblems of love, respect and affection; and one of England's sweetest poetesses, the late Letitia E. Landon, thus commended the custom:

"Oh, deem it not a superstitious rite, though old,
It having with all higher things connection;
Prayers, tears, redeem a world so harsh and cold—
The future hath its hope, the past its deep affection."

"If the strewing of the graves of deceased ones be not a 'superstitious rite,' for a simple flower planted upon the grave of a little child appeals to the heart and shows the past 'has its deep affection;' how very appropriate is it, therefore, for us as Free and Accepted Masons to bear in memory the manly qualities, the many excellencies of character, the self but unselfish devotion to the pure and ennobling virtues inculcated by us as Masons, in our lodge assemblages, of those who, 'though lost to sight are still to memory dear,' inasmuch as they, before relieved from their mortal cares, worshipped at the very altar before which we now bow, who aided us in the propagation of our mystic ceremonies, and by their examples proved how good and how pleasant a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

"To-night Park Lodge meets as a Lodge of Sorrow, to commemorate the manly qualities, the excellent Masonic virtues and services of those who, having been num-