

STRANGE DISPENSATIONS.

A LODGE in Tennessee lately asked for a Dispensation to confer the degrees upon two individuals. One had lost a leg, the other an arm; and the only reason assigned why the Grand Master should disregard the edict of the Grand Lodge, was that they were gentlemen of education, and, therefore, would not become a charge upon the institution! Another lodge asked for a dispensation to confer the degrees upon a gentleman who had lost a leg, and the Grand Master was earnestly solicited to grant the request because of the high social position of the applicant.

The Grand Master replied: "These requests seem to me to exhibit an erroneous idea of the powers of the Grand Master. It seems as if he was thought to be above all law—one who can, with one stroke of the pen, sweep away all the regulations and edicts of the Grand Lodge of which he is the executive officer. Whatever may have been the prerogatives of Grand Masters prior to the organization of Grand Lodges, it certainly cannot now be held that they possess any such power as these requests seem to imply, unless it is insisted that all Grand Masters are lineal descendants of King Solomon, and thence derive their authority by an unbroken succession. These applications, and all others of a like character, were refused upon the ground that the Grand Master does not possess the power to suspend, by Dispensation or otherwise, the operation of any edict or regulation of the Grand Lodge, and that no case of emergency can possibly be presented which would authorize the attempt to do so."

APPOINTED OFFICERS OF GRAND LODGE.

The following are the appointed officers for the year 1875-76. V. W. Bros. G. H. F. Dartnell, Whitby, Grand Senior Deacon; J. B. Nixon, Toronto, Grand Junior Deacon; William Reid, Hamilton, Grand Superintendent of Works; H. L. Vercoe, Seaforth, Grand Director of Ceremonies; Gavin Stewart, Hamilton, Assistant Grand Secretary; C. H. Slawson, Ingersoll, Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies; Wm. Forbes, Grimsby, Grand Sword Bearer; A. E. Fife, Brighton, Grand Organist; Alex. Irvine, Harriston, Assistant Grand Organist; G. R. Vanzant, Stouffville, Grand Pursuivant; J. Ormiston, Gananoque, John A. McKenzie, Sarnia, H. B. O'Connor, Riversdale, G. L. Orme, Ottawa, G. Mansfield, Newbury, S. D. Brown, Drumbo, J. Greenfield, Jr., Kingston, Samuel Rogers, Ottawa, J. N. Fulmer, Ridgeway, Robert King, Barrie, William Hayden, Glencoe, A. P. Booth, Odessa, Grand Stewards.

FREEMASONS INTERESTED IN ARCHITECTURE.

We are glad to note that our English brethren are paying increased attention to the science of Architecture. In mid-August, one of the London lodges (Granite Lodge, No. 1328,) while at refreshment paid a visit to St. Alban's, and passed a thoroughly enjoyable day at the Abbey. The London *Freemason*, of August 28th, informs us that the brethren assembled at the Abbey at noon, when Bro. Chapple, Clerk of the Works, who is a member of the lodge, proceeded to give the members a historical and architectural description of the building, beginning in the one instance with the foundation of the church by Offa, King of Mercia, in 796, to the building of the great monastery by Abbot Paul, and continuing the history of its career, its splendor, its vicissitudes, and its struggles to maintain its position, unto the present day. The architectural features were then dilated on, commencing with those of the Saxon period, passing successively through the Norman, early English, decorated, perpendicular, and subsequent styles, illustrated in every instance by the magnificent arches and mouldings on the spot. Many of the brethren being of the architectural or engineering profession, they entered into a critical examination of the executed works, and expressed their appreciation of the means taken to save the great central tower, as by so doing all the eastern arm of the church was undoubtedly saved from destruction. The Lady Chapel restoration was an object of great interest; so much having been rescued from almost total destruction, the Ante-Chapel especially having been almost in the last stage of decay. Bro. Wood, manager to Sir Gilbert Scott, R. A., fully explained the state of dilapidation, and the means taken to repair the whole building. The beautiful fragments of Roman tiles, mouldings, and sculpture exhibited in the south transept occupied a large share of attention, illustrating as they do the work of eighteen centuries. The party then proceeded to inspect the ruins of Verulam, the broken dyke, the Roman wall and fosse, and minutely examined the sections here laid bare. The Earl of Verulam had kindly placed Gorhambury Park at the disposal of the lodge, but the inspection at the Abbey occupied so much time that a visit to the ruins of Lord Bacon's house was abandoned with regret. The brethren of this lodge intend to raise a fund to repair a special portion of the Abbey.