

the *opinion* be accepted as the rule of action until such time as it is clothed with the authority of law and takes the place of the other.

2. On page 26, section 22 is open to an interpretation against conferring Degrees at special meetings. We see no good reason why Degrees should not be conferred at any properly called special meeting; and judging from the tenor of decisions on kindred subjects given at the same time, we incline to the opinion that G. W. C. T. McLean's decision was only intended to prevent the conferring of Degrees at any other than *regularly constituted* meeting. We think the term "regular" in this decision should be accepted as meaning properly called meeting, whether ordinary or special.

3. On page 43, section 12 provides that a member "on violating his obligation is *not* virtually suspended," etc., which conflicts with section 10, article ix. Sub. Temple constitution, page 94. The decision on page 43 should be accepted as the rule of action, (1) because it is superior law, being the decision of a R. W. G. T. approved by the R. W. G. L., and (2) because it is contrary to the fundamental principles of justice and of common law to inflict a penalty upon any person before it has been determined that he has incurred it. It is the sacred right of every man, in every free country, who is charged with any crime, to be considered innocent until he is proven guilty, and no punishment is inflicted until his guilt has been established before a competent tribunal; and any departure from this wholesome principle would be a very grave error.