

relieving me of much care and anxiety, and to the brethren at large for their many tokens of cordiality and friendship. During these years associations have been formed which I hope and trust will strengthen with advancing years, and in the decline of life will be looked back upon with great pleasure. This Grand Lodge, which we all love so much, and of whose record we are so proud, may again be thrown on a turbulent and tempestuous sea. God grant that able and skillful craftsmen may guide her course, and that the time may speedily come when peace, harmony, and contentment shall prevail within all our borders. To that end I earnestly urge every brother to judiciously and honestly work and pray.

E. R. JOHNSON,  
G. M. G. L. OF Q

Montreal, January 28, 1885.

### Correspondence.

*We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.*

### SUNDEY AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—“*Tempora mutantur, &c.*” And if we would keep up with the times in Masonic matters, we should see that our constitutional law is no hindrance to the march of improvement. It is absolutely necessary that the Constitution should be amended in some respects from time to time, so that our ideal institution may be found fully capable of adapting itself to all the needs, hopes, weaknesses and aspirations of human nature, and the changing circumstances of our ever-varying existence.

I would not advocate change for the sake of change, nor do I believe in altering the Constitution, unless it is found really necessary or expedient to do so; and every proposed amendment should be carefully and maturely considered before its adoption. It is a wise feature in our law, that a year must elapse between the proposal of an amendment and its decision, thereby giving to the representatives of the craft ample time and opportunity for careful deliberation.

One amendment, that I would like to suggest, is somewhat in the nature of an inter-jurisdictional covenant. We are surrounded by other Grand Lodges, and it sometimes happens that an aspirant for the mysteries of Masonry near the border-line, may live nearer to a foreign lodge than to a lodge in Ontario. Such cases have occurred, and will, doubtless, again arise; and to prevent inconvenience, and in a spirit of fairness to all concerned, a new section could be introduced in our Constitution, to read as follows:—

“When an applicant for initiation, residing in this jurisdiction, has his place of residence nearer to a lodge in a sister jurisdiction, than to a lodge in this jurisdiction, such nearer lodge may receive and act upon the petition of such applicant, provided that the Grand Lodge of that jurisdiction will grant the like privilege to lodges in this jurisdiction.”

Another amendment seems to be necessary to cure an omission. There is no provision which states or defines the qualifications of the “recommenders” of a candidate, and it is only inferentially stated that the petition is to be recommended at all, and that is supposed to be done by the insertion of the words “recommended by” in the form of application. This proposed amendment should state that “every petition for initiation must be recommended by at least two members of the lodge who are Master Masons.” Without this, it might be said that the petition could be recommended by two entered apprentices or fellow-crafts, or two brethren who may not be members of the lodge.

An amendment, of a similar kind, is also necessary as to members applying for affiliation. This could be ordered as follows:—

“Every proposition for affiliation shall be recommended by at least two members of the lodge who are Master Masons, and shall be referred to a committee appointed by the Master,