

vision in the rules of the Grand Lodge which requires a certain number to concur in the demand, it is the duty of the Grand Master or presiding officer to ascertain whether there is that requisite number. This would be most conveniently done by calling on those who were in favor of the vote by Lodges to rise, when the votes would be counted by the Senior Deacon.

The demand for a vote by Lodges may be made at any time, not only during the voting on the question in another form, but even after the decision has been made by the chair, provided the Grand Lodge has not proceeded to other business.

If a demand for the vote by the Lodges has been once made and refused by the Grand Lodge, it is not in order to make the demand a second time on the same question. But, the demand or motion, for a vote by Lodges having been negatived, it is in order for any one who voted in the majority—that is, on the negative side—to move for a reconsideration of the vote, which preliminary question will be settled by a mere majority vote.

While the call is being made, and at any time before the decision is announced by the chair, it is permitted to any member to change his vote.

The parliamentary rule is, that no one shall be permitted to vote on a call for the yeas and nays who was not "within the bar;" that is, in the house when the question was stated. But I do not think that this rule has ever been rigidly enforced in Grand Lodges, where every member is permitted to vote on such an occasion, if present during the call, although he may have been absent when the question was stated.

CHAPTER XXIV.

OF QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGES.

In all parliamentary or legislative bodies there occur certain questions which relate to matters affecting the dignity of the assembly or the rights and privileges of some of its members, and these are hence called "questions of privilege." Such, for instance, are motions arising out of, or having relation to a quarrel between two of the members, an assault upon any member, charges affecting the integrity of the assembly or any of its members, or any other matters of a similar character. Questions referring to any of these matters take precedence of all other business, and hence are always in order.

It is impossible to make a complete enumeration of all these questions, and parliaments, congresses, and legislatures have generally been guided by the precedents supplied by the decisions of former sessions in deciding what are questions of privilege.

The analogies existing in many respects between a Masonic Lodge and a legislative assembly leave no doubt in my mind that in the former, as in the latter, questions of privilege may arise. The only difficulty to be encountered is as to what matters can occur in a Lodge or Chapter that would properly give rise to questions of privilege. But as any proposition that involves a question of privilege is to be considered in preference to any other business, it is important that the presiding officer, whose duty it is to decide the point of order, should have some guide by which he may arrive at a correct decision. The following list, although necessarily incomplete, is presented as an approximation to a