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## GRAND MASTERS—THEIR POWERS.

We have for some years been watching the course of events, especially in regard to the increased assumption of powers by many of our brethren, who have had the good, or ill-fortune, to be elected to the high and exalted positions of Grand Masters of Masons. Too many of them, alas, seem to imagine, or if they do not imagine, act as if they did, that their investiture places them in another and higher Masonic atmosphere; that the gold collar and jewel gives them autoeratic powers, elevates them, mentally and otherwise, above their constituents. In looking over the proceedings of several of the grand lodges, we find in the written addresses of the grand masters, an assumption of superiority, and an assertion of prerogatives, gradually increasing, which unless checked, will entirely destroy that equality which should ever exist among Free and Accepted Masons, and by substituting pride and arrogance for the true Masonic virtues, eventually undermine the very foundations of the Masonic fraternity. Such brethren disgrace, instead of elevate in the eyes of the Craft, the office of Grand Master, and means should be taken to bring things back to first principles, and teach these inflated brethren, that in the Lodge—

“ We meet upon the level though from every station come :  
The king from out his palace, and the poor man from his home :  
For the one must leave his diadem outside the Mason's door,  
While the other, finds his true respect upon the checkered floor.”

M. W. Bro. John D. Vincil, Grand Master of Masons in Missouri, on the powers of grand masters, states that “ a grand master *cannot make a law,*” that “ when the grand master judges and decides on any case it must be in the light of *existing law,*” and that his decisions, until approved by the law-making power, the grand lodge, are no more than opinions. This was undoubtedly correct, and the distinguished brother logically determined the correctness of his position by proving that there could not be two equal and