

that fact, opinion, or principle. A subsidiary motion is one which is intended to change the character of the principal motion, as a motion to amend, or to strike out, or insert certain words; or to control its disposition, as a motion to postpone its consideration, to refer it to a committee, or to lay it upon the table.

We shall devote this and the four succeeding chapters to the consideration of a principal motion—that is to say, a substantive proposition, which has been presented to the Lodge for the decision of its members, tracing the progress from its presentation, through the debate which may ensue thereupon, to its final adoption or rejection. We shall not encumber the subject at this time with any remarks on the subsidiary motions which may arise; in other words, we will suppose that a motion expressing some opinion has been proposed, that it has been fairly discussed, without any attempt to amend, postpone, or otherwise evade its immediate disposition, and that the discussion has been followed by a direct vote upon its merits.

In treating this subject of motion, four things are to be considered:

1. The motion itself; how it shall be offered.
2. The debate; how it shall be conducted.
3. The vote; how it shall be taken.
4. The announcement of the decision; how it shall be made.

CHAPTER VII.

OF THE MOTION ITSELF, AND HOW IT SHALL BE OFFERED.

When any member desires to make it a motion, he rises and addresses the chair. Having offered his motion, must be seconded by some other member. For it is well settled by parliamentary law, that no motion which is not seconded can be entertained. The concurrence of two members is necessary to secure its consideration. Hence, if a motion is not seconded, it falls to the ground, and the chair and the Lodge will take no further notice of it than if it had not been presented. And this rule applies to all principal motions, but not, as will be seen hereafter, to all subsidiary ones.

The motion, being thus made and seconded, must be reduced to writing, if insisted upon by any member; and it is a good rule, that every motion should be written out, as confusion or controversy as to its terms or language is thus prevented in the subsequent proceedings. Many Lodges have a provision to this effect in their by-laws; and where such provision exists the rule must, of course, be strictly enforced by the presiding officer. But, in the absence of such a rule, the common law of Parliament gives any member the privilege of demanding that it be written. Hassell, one of the best authorities on parliamentary law, says: "It is to be put into writing, if the House or Speaker require it, and must be read to the House by the Speaker as often as any member desire it for his information." This is the rule of the British House of Commons, and the same rule exists in both Houses of American Congress.

"The rule of the Senate is: When a motion shall be made and seconded, it shall be reduced to writing, if desired by the President or any other member, delivered in at the table, and read by the President before the same shall be debated." That of the House of Representatives is in the following words: "Every motion shall be reduced to writing, if the Speaker or any member desire it."