

and arbitrator of<sup>1</sup>a Grand Master's proceedings, is lowering the dignity and prestige of the highest office within the gift of the Craft.

Brethren who are selected for the exalted position of Most Worshipful Grand Master are, in ninety-nine cases out of one hundred, men whom the Brotherhood has known for years, and whose skill, experience and honor are untarnished and unquestioned. To have an article of this kind in the Constitution is to insinuate that bad men are apt to secure the gavel of the Grand East, and is a slight and a slur upon the first Masonic officer in the Territory.

If a Grand Master during his brief term of office should commit any heinous offence, which is most unlikely, the brethren only have to patiently wait till the Grand Lodge convenes, when they can at once depose him. Besides, what is to prevent the Grand Master of Arizona, or any other Grand Master, *suspending his accusers and judges if he sees fit*; for even according to the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Arizona he can, by Part II., Art. I., Clause VIII, "suspend the Master of any Lodge from the exercise of the powers and duties of his office, for good reasons shown, until the next Annual Communication." If he can do this, he could certainly suspend his judges and accusers, and what would the trial amount to under such circumstances?

In the "Digest of the Masonic Law" of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, we find under Article VIII., Section I., the Grand Master "may suspend a brother or a lodge, until the ensuing meeting of Grand Lodge,

when he shall present the reasons for such suspension in writing." This may be regarded as the general law, and under these circumstances the Grand Master could upset any proceedings that might be brought against him. We think, therefore, it was an unwise departure upon the part of the Grand Lodge of Arizona, to cripple the hands or hamper in any way the powers and prerogatives that have been faithfully cherished and honorably maintained by Grand Masters from time immemorial.

#### SCOTTISH RITE DIFFICULTIES.

The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite seems as if it were absolutely necessary for it always to be in turmoil. We have recently received a manifesto from the Supreme Grand Council of the Northern Jurisdiction, in which we find that Ill. Bro. Folger, 33°, (the eminent Scottish Rite historian, second only to Albert Pike, and by many considered his equal), is expelled. also, Ill. Bro. Thompson Hopkins, 33°, formerly Lt.-Grand Commander; and Ill. Bro. Woodruff, 33°, P. G. High Priest of the Grand Chapter of New York, and one of the most prominent Masons in the Empire State. Naturally the reader inquires into the cause of these arbitrary proceedings. The answer is very clear and simple. These brethren, all, let it be noted, well-read Craftsmen and leaders in the Fraternity, became convinced that the Supreme Council for the A. and A. Rite for the United States of America, founded by Joseph Cerneau in 1807, was the legitimate and legal Masonic authority of the Scottish