

MISSISSIPPI.—The Grand Master speaks of non-affiliates disporting themselves on street corners, decorated with emblematic pins, rings, seals and badges, &c., and then quotes from Rob Morris of Kentucky: "We will say to Judge Howry, right here in Kentucky we are weighed down with the deadwood of demitted masons. At our last Grand Lodge session they swarmed in the hall; at feasts, frolics, and funerals they outnumber the legitimate vote. They claim charity when sick, and being dead, their families claim it in their names. We are compelled to bury their cadavers, often at a large expense to our lodges. Their drunkenness, profanity and pistolling is all charged, by outsiders, to the principles of masonry as represented in our lodges. They ride us as Sinbad was ridden by the old man of the sea; acknowledging no claim that we have upon them, they enter our shells, crab like, and suck out our vitals. They are a standing premium on demitting. Though we loathe them we can no more get rid of them than we can of innate sin."

The Grand Master of Mississippi says further on that he granted a dispensation to perform our burial ceremonies at the grave of a brother who died a non-affiliate. He does not, however, approve of it as a rule.

MASONIC BURIAL.

This brings us to the question of masonic burial.

MISSISSIPPI.—The Grand Master mentions an old brother who had been member of a lodge for twenty years, and half that its Master, who demitted, moved into another jurisdiction and affiliated, was suspended for non-payment of dues and died; his masonic burial was refused. The Grand Master says: "It was hard to refuse this dying request of the old brother, but duty compelled me to refuse the dispensation, because I do not believe it to be in the power of your Grand Master to restore to good standing a mason properly suspended."

CANADA.—The Grand Master takes a different view; he says: "A brother died while under suspension for non-payment of dues; the worshipful master of his lodge telegraphed to me that before his death his arrears were offered, but the lodge could not meet in time to restore him. Under the circumstances, and at the request of the worshipful master, I granted a dispensation that the deceased brother might be accorded a masonic burial. I felt compelled, in a case where a brother had died while under a suspension for non-payment of dues, to refuse a dispensation, there being no existing reason to call forth my prerogative, and I could not allow personal considerations to prevail."

ARKANSAS.—The Grand Master was asked: "Can a deceased brother, who was suspended at the time of his death, be reinstated now by a vote of the lodge?"

Answer: "Yes, upon his personal application."

BURIAL AND OTHER SECRET SOCIETIES

CANADA.—The Grand Master objects to brethren attending a funeral "as masons" of a brother who desired to be buried according to the ritual of a non-masonic society. He says: "I held that the brethren should not appear as a lodge, or clothed as masons on funeral occasions, unless the burial rites were performed under the exclusive control of the lodge, and according to the procedure