

The Brethren responsible for the difficulty above described deserve the reflection passed upon their carelessness by the Grand Master, but there is very little satisfaction in this for the unjustly treated candidate. If justice be a cardinal virtue and the repairing of injury a duty that is as binding upon Lodges as upon individual Masons, we fail to see why a ballot should not be repassed when one or more Brethren declare that they may have made a mistake in casting their ballots. The following section of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Quebec appears to us particularly reasonable:—"If the ballot be not favorable, the Master, without declaring the result, may at once order a second ballot for the purpose of correcting a possible mistake, which ballot shall be the last." This procedure is found to work very satisfactorily. While the second ballot affords opportunity for the correction of a possible mistake, and by its very *raison d'être* invites special care from each Brother present in casting his ballot, it in no manner takes from an intentionally objecting Brother the right or the means of persisting in the use of the black ball.

A case of alleged invasion of the territory of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, by one of the West Virginia Lodges, was promptly investigated by the Grand Master, and the necessary permission, sought and obtained.

One Master of a Lodge exhibited so slight an acquaintance with Masonic law, as to decide that a Brother who objected to the initiation of a candidate should prefer charges in writing. The Grand Master properly and promptly notified the Master as follows:—

Objections having been made by a member of your Lodge to the initiation of a petitioner, he cannot be initiated until objection is withdrawn. Your Lodge is not competent to discipline a profane, and there is nothing to be done in the matter except to return the deposit and this you will cause to be done.

We note with some surprise, and not without a certain amount of regret, the whole army of physical perfectionists, to the contrary, notwithstanding, that the Grand Master's decision that only such physical defects as prevent a candidate practising the precepts and complying with the ritual should render him physically ineligible for initiation, was reversed by Grand Lodge, after two or three divisions had occurred on the subject.