

It has been the general practice to return the petition, with the money accompanying it, to the applicant, in such cases. But that was simply the petition, and nothing more. No matter of record went with it. But the informalities attending reference and report, fees and balloting, have wrought a change in the old and loose system of verbal reports and hasty ballotings. The petitioner is scrutinized in the very petition he signs. In Illinois and many other jurisdictions, he must state whether he has ever petitioned any other lodge, and if he has, when and where, and all the circumstances connected with it. The back of the petition shows the amount of the fee accompanying the petition, without which it *cannot be received*; the names of the brethren who are charged with the duty of special and thorough inquiry into the antecedents and present standing of the petitioner; and lastly, their report. All this has become positively necessary as a matter of caution, and with reference to the future. Everything may result favorably to the candidate until tried by the ballot. An unfavorable report necessarily results in rejection. But nine-tenths of the rejections follow favorable reports, and nineteen-twentieths of these rejections are right. If the candidate petitions again, there should be the petition to verify his signature, to show what was done, with dates and facts. Aside from the ballot, the petition is a record in itself. And it is wise and safe to be so. Being in the archives, it avoids the unnecessary accumulation of papers and a search of the records, not always at hand. These changes involve a necessity for change in the matter of returning a petition. There never was any general law to return a petition, and the usage was ever a dangerous one, and has often produced painful and mischievous consequences. All that the rejected petitioner is entitled to know is the bare fact of rejection, and with that knowledge he should receive his money.

But it may be said that a return of a petition with a favorable report, may work no harm. In the present orderly and correct mode of doing business in our lodges, we do not concede any such result. What the petition may disclose is not for the eyes of the profane. All matter of record belongs to the Fraternity, unless otherwise ordered by the lodge, or by some superior power. Hence we say, that the custom of returning any petition, after it has been referred, should be abandoned, and the petition held to be, as it undoubtedly is, the property of the lodge. —*Masonic Troucl.*

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MASONIC.—The installation of officers of Barton Lodge No. 6, C. R., District, officiating, assisted by V. W. Bros. R. Brierly and W. T. took place on St. John's Day. R. W. Bro. E. Mitchell, D. D. G. M., Hamilton Munday, W. Bros. H. Murray and C. R. Smith. The following officers were installed:

W. Bro. Gavin Stewart, W. M.; V. W. Bro. R. Brierley, I. P. M.; Bro. S. F. Lazier, S. W.; Bro. R. S. Kennedy, J. W.; A. McCallum Chaplain; Bro. E. S. Whipple, Treasurer; Bro. J. F. McClure, Secretary; Bro. Chas. Davidson, Senior Deacon; Bro. J. G. Burkholder, Junior Deacon; Bro. G. F. DeVine, Organist; Bro. Wm. Gibson, I. G.; Bros. Russell, J. H. Land, A. Leathhead, Stewards; Bro. J. B. Rousseaux, D. of C.; Bro. W. W. Summers, Tyler; V. W. Bros. W. T. Munday, T. H. Bartindale Auditors.