

the candidate) the Master is amenable only to the dictates of his own conscience. He should act always in what he deems to be the true interests of Masonry.

Q.—The S. D. and J. D. are instructed to collect the P. W. and G. They proceed in their duty, and make a demand on a P. M. who is sitting in the E., but not presiding, who refuses, on the ground that the W. M.'s and P. M.'s sitting in the E. are as much exempt as the W. M. presiding. Was the P. M. right in refusing the D. the P. W. and G.?

A.—No. A Past Master, whether sitting in the East or not, (unless he is acting as W. M.) is not exempt from giving the P. W. to the Deacons who are collecting it by order of the W. M. The W. M. has control of the work; he orders the P. W. to be collected "from the brethren present," and this order makes no exception in favor of any particular brother. It is then the duty of the Deacons to obey this order by requiring the P. W. from all present without any exception, and they report the result to the W. M. If any one is unable, or refuses to give it, he must be reported; otherwise the duty of the Deacons is not properly performed. We consider that a P. M. has no greater privilege in this respect than any other brother, and he is equally bound to comply with the order of the W. M.

Q.—Supposing the Secretary of a Lodge found it necessary, on account of his business, to leave the place where he was resident, or through his business had to take his demit from his Lodge, would it not be legal for the Master to order an election for that office to be put on the summonses issued by the Secretary *pro tem.*, for the next regular meeting, without waiting through the balance of the year without any installed Secretary?

The Irish Constitution makes no provision for the election of a Secretary when the office becomes vacant during the year, nor for any of the offices except the Master. It says no election of a Master can take place, but the next Past Master shall take his place. There is a great difference in the two offices, and I think that the office of Secretary, being a very important one, when it becomes vacant the Master can have it filled by ordering the election to be put upon the summonses when they are issued. And it cannot be pre-supposed that the

Secretary is bound to keep the office for the whole year, for the simple reason that no man has a license of his life and knows how long he may live to fill the office.

A.—The Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Canada provides that no Warden or other officer of a Lodge can resign his office, nor can he be removed unless for a cause which appears to the Lodge to be sufficient.

Under this provision it would, in our opinion, be competent for the Lodge to remove a Secretary who had left the jurisdiction so that he was unable to perform the duties of the office. The Master would then, on the office being declared vacant, order a new election to be held, after proper notice to all the members.

If an officer cannot resign his office, it necessarily follows that he cannot resign his membership or "take his demit" during his term of office, for an officer of a Lodge must be a member of it.

In the case of a vacancy by death, we believe that the rule is that the office must be filled by *pro tempore* appointments at each meeting, until the next regular election of officers. There is no provision for a new election in such cases.

The Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Ireland does not contain any regulation as to vacancies in the subordinate offices. It is there held that an officer cannot resign, and we believe that the above remarks will be found equally applicable to Lodges working under that Constitution.

Q.—A man has received the first degree in Masonry; there has arisen since very bad reports about him, and is the talk as well among Masons as among those who are not. Would this bad report (failing to prove anything more serious) actually believed by all who have heard it, be sufficient to suspend him. The Brethren are very averse to his receiving any further advancement. Can evidence be taken by gentlemen who are not Masons? Can the Lodge vote as to whether he receives any more degrees; and how many will reject?

A.—When charges are preferred against a Brother, the evidence of persons who are not Masons may be