

selves immediately affected thereby; several brethren who were particularly in favor of the abolition of dual membership were under the impression that G. L. had the power to abolish the same at once, without any previous notice of that intention being given, and they were strengthened in that opinion by the view expressed on that subject by the Grand Master, though P. G. Masters Simpson and Iarlington openly and many other brethren privately, declared that no such resolution could be brought up without notice thereof having been giving at the last preceding communication of Grand Lodge. So anxious indeed were a few brethren that they offered to withdraw all opposition and objection to the formation of a new lodge in their town, (for which new lodge a warrant had been desired at that session of Grand Lodge) if Grand Lodge would pass a resolution as the one above given.

Having learned from those brethren the ostensible reasons for their objection to the formation of that new lodge, I considered them insufficient and being at the same time convinced that Grand Lodge cannot constitutionally pass any resolution which either alters or amends our laws or adds a new law without such previous notice, I consented, in order to please the brethren, to move that resolution; which was carried by a majority of the comparatively small number of brethren at that hour in attendance.

Now with all due deference to Grand Master Stevenson, who soon after the passing of that resolution surrendered the Gavel to his successor in office, I cannot understand by what he was guided in his ruling when he ruled that such a motion could be brought up without previous notice thereof being necessary; especially as since the day before he had ruled that notices of motion must clearly set forth the nature of any proposed alteration or amendment to the Constitution. According to my simple ability of understanding I consider that when it is not sufficient to give merely notice of motion without particularizing the same, that then it is still more insufficient not to give any notice at all. However, what will be the probable result of that resolution? Some no doubt will hold that since it is passed by Grand Lodge it is law and must be obeyed, and others will hold it to be unconstitutional and need not be obeyed. This view of one W. M. who considers it law was recently most forcibly exemplified in the following manner: Several members of his lodge had applied for a dispensation to form a new lodge, the dispensation having been delayed for some time so that the meeting of the Grand Lodge came to be held before the dispensation had been issued, in consequence of which the application was directly made to Grand Lodge, and Grand Lodge granted a Warrant to the applicants; a short time after the meeting of Grand Lodge and before those applicants had received their Warrant, the regular lodge night of the lodge in question came on; none of the brethren of that lodge however, that are applicants for the new lodge had received the usual summons or notice, they nevertheless attended the meeting of the lodge after opening of which the W. M. stated that he took upon himself the responsibility of not having had those brethren summoned as he did not consider them members of either lodge, and that they had no right to vote in his lodge. One of those brethren strongly demurred against such treatment, stating that even if he or they were obliged to withdraw from one of the two lodges to which they belonged that they had the right of the choice, which in the mean time they could not do, since that new lodge had not yet been organized; however, the W. M. ruled that they had no vote in his lodge, whereupon those brethren retired no doubt greatly offended.

Among the arguments advanced by those who hold that that resolution is not binding, the following may be mentioned as the chief points.

1st. That by the Constitution under Caption: "Regulations for the Government of the Grand Lodge during the time of public business;" it is plainly laid down in Section 10. That, "No notice shall be entertained for altering or amending the laws, rules or regulations of this Grand Lodge, or for adding a new law, rule or regulation thereto, without notice in writing, stating the amendment proposed, having been given at the communication previous to that at which it is to be brought before Grand Lodge, and no alteration or addition to the constitution shall be made binding unless supported by two-thirds of the votes present." Which so distinctly declares the inadmissibility of any new law without such notice, that it leaves us no room for doubt.

That unquestionably that resolution is a new law, and therefore requires the previous notice, and that it was not carried by a two-thirds but by a simple majority.

2nd. That the Grand Lodge, being a legislative body, had no doubt the power of making laws, but that this power is restrained within certain limits by those fixed rules of legislative policy which are familiar to every jurist and among which