

Any "other lodge" may, upon the production of such certificate, constitutionally ballot for and admit to membership the brother named in that certificate; nor is there a constitutional impediment to any lodge granting such a certificate or a similar one, so long as it states real facts, neither is any lodge authorized to refuse the same when a resigned brother requires to be furnished with it.

It would, no doubt, be desirable were the Grand Lodge to give a plain interpretation of that Sixth Clause of Members and their duty, and at the same time declare whether or not a member has the right to resign his membership before having paid his dues to that lodge; and whether or not the words "withdraw" and "resign" are in that clause to be considered as being synonymous. Regarding the ownership of the certificate that is granted under that sixth clause, there is likewise a difference of opinion, for while some brethren hold that after the same is produced to the lodge and the applicant admitted a member, the certificate becomes the property of that lodge and should be kept among its records, but on no condition be returned to the brother who presented it, in order to guard against improper use of the same, should he afterwards unfortunately violate his duties as a Mason. Other brethren hold that the certificate is always the property of that individual brother; he merely presents it on his application for membership, the same as he might present his Grand Lodge certificate while visiting another lodge; his several certificates he requires in order to show the whole chain of his affiliation with the Craft, and if deprived of the one or the other the chain is broken. The several certificates are his unquestionable property, by them he proves his title to Masonic privileges and no party has a right to assume ownership over it; that the plea for withholding a certificate because the brother might in future become an unworthy Mason is even worse than pronouncing judgment before trial, it is condemning a man even before a charge is laid and before the breach of the law is committed, and while the whole lodge by its unanimous ballot has declared him a true and worthy brother.

GRAND LODGE ALPINA, SWITZERLAND.

The *Keystone* says: The Ultramontane party, now agitating Europe, has also extended its intrigues over the Swiss Republic, and is waging a fierce war against the Masons of that country. Our brethren have even deemed it necessary to take steps to ward off its malicious attacks. At the request of a number of the daughter Lodges, M. W. Bro. Humbert, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge *Alpina*, called a conference of Lodges to be held in May, 1873, at Aarau, to deliberate on the course to be pursued. Twenty Lodges were represented, and the result was the adoption of a set of resolutions, in substance as follows:

That inasmuch as the daily attacks made by the Ultramontane press against Masonry was influencing even people of liberal ideas, whose opinions should not be considered with indifference, and impressed with the necessity that the profane world should possess more correct ideas of the aim and tendencies of the Masonic Institution, the conference invites the administrative council of the Grand Lodge *Alpina* to cause, in any manner it may deem best, the publication in German and French, of articles five and six of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, containing the fundamental principles adopted on the 23rd of September, 1848; also a refutation of the charges that the Swiss Lodges are dependencies of the Grand Orient, and are subject to secret superiors of High Degrees or of Statesmen; that the Lodges occupy themselves with political questions; that its members are infidels, and are supported even after having violated the laws of morality and of the country.

The administrative council of the Grand Lodge has complied with this invitation of the conference, and has published a full and clear vindication of Masonry from the false and foul charges preferred by the Ultramontanes. Its length prevents us from transferring it entire to our pages. In substance it states, that it is not proposed to defend the Institution against the malevolent and insane slanders so industriously disseminated by the Ultramontane party; that attacks of that kind would never draw a single word in reply, and that it would be a degradation and profanation of the good cause to enter into a discussion with such adversaries; that the publication was addressed to the unprejudiced public, and men of enlightenment and education, who, it is to be regretfully stated, condemn an Institution without taking the pains of informing themselves of its aim and nature; that although the publication was not official, or based upon a resolution adopted by the Grand Lodge, is nevertheless authentic, and for that reason the authors had attached their names thereto. If the publication would aid to correct the views on Masonry in circles whose judgment is deemed of value by the Union, if it would have the effect to dispel false ideas, and gain those sympathies, which its truly liberal and humane aims deserve, the object sought for will have been attained.

The pamphlet then quotes Articles 5, 6 and 8 of the Grand Lodge Constitution, ex-