

By approved decision of Grand Masters installed officers can dimit in Massachusetts. In that jurisdiction it was formerly held that in absence of any regulation to the contrary, an installed officer could dimit or resign. It was subsequently held that such officer could not resign during his term of office, allowing him to dimit as before.

In Tennessee a Warden can dimit if it be to join another Lodge into whose jurisdiction he has removed. The Master cannot resign. It is silent as to whether he can dimit.

By constitutional or By-law provision installed officers cannot resign or dimit in New York, Maine, Nebraska, in South Carolina, inferentially, and was so held by decisions in 1876 and 1879.

In New Brunswick he cannot resign, but the Master if dissatisfied with the conduct of any of his officers, can lay the matter before the Lodge and a majority vote can render the office vacant.

In Ohio neither the Master nor Wardens can resign nor decline to be installed if elected, unless he has served in some station during the previous year.

By approved decisions of Grand Masters, in absence of constitutional or By-law provisions upon the subject, installed officers cannot resign or dimit in Missouri, New Jersey, Maryland, Manitoba, West Virginia and Vermont.

I have not been able to ascertain the rule in the Grand Lodges not mentioned, but from the foregoing it will be seen that there is a great diversity of opinion on the subject of dimission of installed officers. While some refer to all such officers, others are silent as to all such officers except the Master and Wardens. It will, therefore, be seen that the dimission of officers as well as their resignation is entirely a Grand Lodge regulation; and is not founded upon ancient customs or usages, except so far as the resolution of Nov. 25th, 1723, of the Grand Lodge of England can be construed to be in conformity to the custom of the fraternity prior to its organization in 1717, which, be it remembered, allowed the Master to dimit.

The following advice by the Grand Master respecting the examination and admission of visitors is too good to be passed over:

In order for a stranger Brother to gain admission into a lodge he must satisfy the Brethren that he is a Mason in good standing. A receipt for dues and a satisfactory examination on the lectures are only *prima facie* evidence that he is such. The very best masons are not always the best posted. Personal acquaintance with the reputation of the applicant are asconcomitant to an avouchment as a knowledge of the lectures. The biggest masonic frauds in the world are always armed with credentials and are bright in the ritual. Masonry is no iron bedstead into which all men must fit, or be lopped off or stretched out as