

## AN UNWISE DEPARTURE.

We have recently been reading the report of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Arizona, and whilst we heartily congratulate the brethren in that distant territory in establishing a Sovereign Grand Body with such harmony and good-will, we regret to say that we think there is one article in their Constitution which it would be advisable to expunge at as early a date as possible. We allude to "Part VI, of Trials, Appeals, Penalties, Article I," which reads as follows:—

## "RELATIVE TO THE GRAND MASTER.

"SECTION 1. Charges may be preferred against the Grand Master for abuse of his power, violation of the Constitution or Regulations of the Grand Lodge, or other unmasonic conduct, by any three Masters of Lodges; which charges shall be in writing over their signatures, and shall be presented to the last Past Grand Master of this Grand Lodge who may be within the Territory, and who is a member of a Lodge within its jurisdiction.

"SEC. 2. Upon the presentation of such charges, it shall be the duty of such Past Grand Master to transmit a copy thereof to the accused, if within the Territory, at least thirty days, and if without the Territory, at least ninety days, before the time designated for the trial, together with a notification to attend at such time and place as he may therein name, which shall be one most convenient for the parties; and he shall also summon two or more other Past Grand Masters of this territory, who shall be members of Lodges therein, to assemble with him at the time and place designated, and shall notify the accused thereof.

"SEC. 3. The tribunal thus assembled, or any of its members, shall have power to summon witnesses at the request of either party; it shall

receive such testimony as in its judgment shall be proper, and shall determine finally upon the guilt or innocence of the accused; and the opinion of a majority of all its members shall be the judgment of the tribunal and shall be final.

"SEC. 4. The only penalty inflicted shall be deprivation of office; but, when thus deprived, the adjudged may be amenable to his lodge upon a charge of unmasonic conduct.

"SEC. 5. The Grand Secretary shall attend at the trial to keep a record of the proceedings and of the judgment, which shall be filed in his office and shall be presented at the next Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

"SEC. 6. The proceedings at such trial, not fully prescribed in this Article, shall, so far as may be applicable, be in conformity with the provisions of Art IV. of this Part.

"SEC. 7. All necessary travelling expenses of the members of such tribunal shall be paid by the Grand Lodge, in the same manner as those of Grand officers attending its communications."

Now, we deem the whole of this article improper and unwise. So far as we are aware the Grand Lodge of Arizona is the only Grand Body that has thought it necessary to have a special code for the trial of a Grand Master. We hold that the Grand Master is sovereign and supreme during the *inter regnum* of Grand Lodge; he exercises prerogatives also of which no Grand Lodge can deprive him; the power of suspension even rests in his hands, and in all the older jurisdictions, who work by the ancient code, he has the right to make a Mason at sight. During his term of office, he literally has no peer by which he can be tried, and to make the immediate Past Grand Master, as Arizona does, the judge