

In Grand Lodge a ballot may be called for, but this is because of the inequality in the number of votes held by the brethren, some members having only one vote, others, providing they represent lodges by proxy, may hold as many as ten.

Q.—What are the correct numbers in Grand Honors?

A.—Nine for Grand Master; seven for Deputy Grand Master, and for District Deputies, five for all other elected Grand Officers; three for other distinguished brethren. The honors given to Past Grand Officers are the same as given to present officers.

Q.—Can residents of a city where there are a number of lodges having concurrent jurisdiction be made Masons in a lodge outside the city limits, provided their residence is nearer that lodge?

A.—Yes; the jurisdiction of a lodge extends half way in every direction to the nearest lodge.

Q.—Can a Mason who has paid his dues, resigned his membership, applied for and received his dimit, removed to and taken up his residence in the United States, be tried for un-masonic conduct by the lodge of which he was formerly a member?

A.—No; the penal jurisdiction of a lodge is, 1st, over its members no matter where they reside, and 2nd, over all Masons residing within its geographical jurisdiction, whether they are affiliated or not, but it has no jurisdiction over Masons not affiliated with it, who are living within the territory of a Grand Lodge.

An interesting case affecting the jurisdiction of lodges came before me. A person living for a number of years in Belleville removed to Stirling, and there made application to be made a Mason. A favorable report was made and he was accepted. Application was made to one of the lodges in Belleville for permission to initiate him. I was asked a number of questions, among which was, whether the senior lodge or a majority of the lodges at Belleville should give the

certificate of character. I replied that the intention of the Constitution was that candidates should be initiated in the lodge nearest the place of their residence, and that the Grand Lodge had ruled that residence, masonically speaking, was not acquired until the candidate had resided in a place one year. Lodges, however, may initiate candidates who live within their territory, notwithstanding they have not lived there the required time, provided they produce a certificate of character from the lodge having jurisdiction; that in this case it was not necessary to get a dispensation nor pay the fee to the Grand Lodge, that the certificate of character from the lodge having jurisdiction was sufficient, and was in fact a permit to initiate. Art. 165 did not apply to this case, but to a person seeking to be made a Mason in a lodge which is not the nearest to the place where he resides and has resided for a year.

BENEVOLENT OR SICK FUND

Members of the craft have asked whether there is anything in the Constitution to prevent them forming a benevolent or sick benefit fund in connection with the lodge. While there is nothing in the Constitution prohibiting this, the brethren should remember that "Masonry is not a benefit association or an insurance company, nor is it to be placed on the same level with associations which agree to make to the contributor or his representatives a cash payment for the amount which he has paid in."

EMBLEMS USED FOR UNWORTHY PURPOSES.

My attention has been called to the pernicious custom of using Masonic emblems as trade marks. The Mason who advertises himself a member of the Craft in this way for the purpose of increasing his business, is unworthy of support. It has even been said that the emblems of our time-honored order have been prostituted by being painted upon the sign boards