

Many matters affecting constitutional questions came before the Board for consideration, and were reported upon as follows:—

#### REPORT ON CONSTITUTION AND REGULATIONS.

AMITY LODGE No. 32, DUNNVILLE.—The Board is of opinion that the effect of clause 21 under the head of “Private Lodges” in the book of Constitution is to render it *imperative* on a Lodge to restore a brother, who has been suspended for non payment of dues, on payment of “all arrears owing at the time of his suspension,” together with the “regular lodge dues for the period he was so suspended,” in other words that by the *act of payment* the brother becomes a member of the Lodge again in good standing, without any formal action on the part of the Lodge, but, that this provision does not prevent the Lodge from accepting a less sum if it should see fit to do so. The Board therefore holds that though it is a power which should be cautiously exercised, there is nothing in the Constitution of the Grand Lodge, or the usages of Masons, to prevent Amity Lodge from remitting the dues accrued during the period of suspension, and restoring a brother to good standing on payment of the arrears due at the date of his suspension.

The Board desires it to be distinctly understood that in all cases of restoration of Brethren, the Lodge is responsible to Grand Lodge for the Grand Lodge dues which accrue during the period of suspension.

In reference to the petition of a number of Brethren of Orillia, for a dispensation to form a new Lodge there, the Board is of opinion that it has no power to deal with the cases. In the absence of a recommendation from the nearest Lodge it must be reserved for the pleasure of Grand Lodge.

DALHOUSIE LODGE No. 52,—In this case the papers relating to the action of this Lodge in the matter of the complaint of Bro. St Hill, against Bro. Smith which were sent to the Grand Secretary in England, while the Lodge was working under its English warrant, were merely transmitted to this Grand Lodge through R. W. Bro. Sir. John A. McDonald after the Lodge had surrendered its English warrant. No appeal from the decision of the M. W. the Grand Master of England appears by the papers received to have been made, and as the term of suspension has expired, and no further action in the matter is demanded by either party, this Board does not deem it necessary to offer any opinion on the proceedings taken.

ST JOHN'S LODGE No. 209a, LONDON.—The Boards finds from the statements of Brethren, and on examination of the minute books of the Lodge that W. Bro. O'Connor withdrew from the Lodge and took his demit on the 19th May, 1869 while it was working under the Grand Lodge of Ireland. At its first meeting after joining this Grand Lodge (21st August, 1872.) Bro. O'Connor personally applied in Lodge to be re-instated, when it was moved and seconded that he be admitted a member, and no objections having been made the motion was declared carried—No ballot was passed nor was a formal vote taken. Bro. O'Connor paid the affiliation fee and has since paid his dues up to last St. John's day.

At the next meeting, before the minutes were confirmed one of the Brethren made some objections to the vote of the previous meeting but no formal protest, and there is some difference among the Brethren as to the extent to which he pressed his objections—After this Bro. O'Connor sat and voted in the Lodge without formal objection—On 18th Dec.