

Truth. What hallowed memories center around his home and Lodge! And how should the recollection of his untiring devotion to our cause prompt his successors there, and our Brethren everywhere, to renewed efforts for the extension and perpetuity of Odd Fellowship.

In November last, I received a letter from the Corresponding Secretary of the Manchester Unity Order of Odd Fellows; written, as stated therein, in conformity with a resolution passed at their last session, asking whether anything in the way of amalgamation or reciprocity could be effected, whereby the objects of both Orders could be advanced—and if so, what steps were necessary to accomplish that end? This communication, together with a copy of my reply to the same, will be found among other correspondence and papers for your consideration.

Of the various questions submitted for my decision, to all of which I have replied, several were only of local interest; while others were of minor importance, or, so well defined by the usages of the Order and the repeated action of our own and the R. W. Grand Lodge of the United States, that I deem it unnecessary to place them upon record, and will only offer the following:

1st. A Lodge, having rejected a candidate, on a vote taken without ball ballots; at its next regular meeting proceeded to a ball ballot, (as prescribed by the Constitution,) for the same candidate who was thus elected.

QUERY: Was the re-consideration, and final action of the Lodge correct? My reply sustained the final action of the Lodge, on the ground that the ballot which resulted in rejection, was not conformable to law, and consequently void.

2nd. Can a member retiring with the V. G.'s P. W. for the night, be readmitted at any time during that meeting by giving the same to the I. G.? To which I answered, "Yes."

3d. Are candidates retaining membership in the Manchester Unity, eligible to initiation in our Lodges; and is it admissible for members of our Order to unite with the M. U., thus holding membership in both Orders? My reply was "No."

Subsequently, I obtained, through the Deputy Grand Sire for this Province, the opinion of the Most Worthy Grand Sire of the United States, which is on file, and fully supports my own view of this case. Quite recently I received from the source of the last Query, a special request from the N. G. on behalf of the Lodge; that I would call your attention to this question, with a view to its discussion, and if deemed advisable, such representation of the subject, to the Grand Lodge of the United States as would perhaps result in such amendment of law, or relaxation of usage, as would permit the initiation of members of the M. Unity. It is a question which I believe exclusively effects this jurisdiction, and I respectfully submit it for your consideration.

The amendments adopted at last session have worked favorably, and if followed up by those proposed for this meeting, will, I believe, place our financial affairs upon a more liberal and substantial basis than has existed for some time past; a result much to be desired, since we should have been compelled, in a short time, under our former system, to resort to special assessment.

The Deputy District Grand Masters, have been more than usually prompt, in remitting their official Reports; and I trust equally so, in the performance of the various duties assigned them. As very much of advantage, both to the Grand and subordinate Lodge arises from the promptitude and faithfulness of the District Deputy, it is earnestly to be hoped that future appointees, will not only accept their Commissions with pride, but, not resting satisfied with filling nominal positions, see to it that nothing is left undone or unattended, which will advance the interests of the Order, and especially, that the very first, and in fact every act of their Lodges, designed for, or tending to dismemberment, is promptly and fully reported either to the Grand Secretary or Grand Master.