

organization to address a circular to each of the subordinate Lodges in this jurisdiction, asking assistance for the completion of a Masonic Temple, by the purchase of tickets to a Gift Concert. My action in this matter was not taken without great hesitation, and strong doubts of its propriety. Believing the tendency of such enterprises, at least, of doubtful character, nothing but the entire confidence I felt in the brethren who proposed to conduct it, and a conviction that it afforded the only prospect of relief from a most embarrassing complication, threatening ruinous pecuniary loss to the Fraternity of that city, induced me to give it my sanction; and though precedent furnished by this Grand Lodge can be cited to sustain my action, yet I feel constrained to indicate my desire that this additional precedent may not hereafter be pleaded to justify a resort, on ordinary occasions, to this method of raising funds.

"In August last, I was the recipient of a communication from Most Worshipful Charles F. Stansbury, Grand Master of Masons in the District of Columbia, enquiring as to the 'relative positions and authority of the Masonic Fraternity and the Order of Odd Fellows, at funerals, where the deceased had been a member of both organizations.' In response, I forwarded him a copy of the resolution adopted by this Grand Lodge, 'repealing the law prohibiting persons other than Masons from acting as pall-bearers at Masonic funerals,' constituting the only regulation on the subject. In this connection I will say, that having been called on by the Worshipful Master of Lodge No. 120, to sustain his decision prohibiting the passage of a procession of other organizations through his Lodge, when convened to bury a Brother, also a member of another Order, I did not hesitate to confirm his action. I cannot avoid giving expression to my regret that this Grand Body has opened the door to these embarrassing questions of precedence, &c., by departing from what I am constrained to regard as true Masonic law, in admitting non-affiliates or profanes, within the precincts of a titled Lodge, duly opened, whether as pall-bearers or otherwise. The exclusiveness of our Order being thus invaded, it becomes exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to draw the line which shall fix the relative rank, dignity and ceremonial, of different organizations on a satisfactory basis.

"I have declined to issue dispensations in several cases authorizing Lodges to confer all the Degrees at one meeting, or to consider petitions for initiation within less than one month after presentation. My conviction, after long observation, is that the interests of the Order are rarely subserved