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PARLIAMENTARY LAW, AS APPLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MASONIC BODIES.

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CHAPTER XVIII.

OF INCIDENTAL QUESTIONS.

Incidental questions are defined by Cushing to be "those which arise out of and are connected with (though they do not necessarily dispose of) other questions to which they relate, and which, for the time being, they supersede."

It is evident that there must be a vast number of questions which will be continually springing up during the discussion of any proposition, and which are suggested extemporaneously, by points in the discussion. These are called incidental questions, because they are really only incidents of the debate. It is impossible to anticipate what are all the questions that might thus arise in the course of a discussion. Five, however, being of more frequent occurrence and of a more important character than the others, may become the subjects of our consideration. These are—

1. Questions of order.
2. Questions for reading papers.
3. Questions on leave to withdraw motions.
4. Questions on suspending a rule.
5. Questions on taking the vote by yeas and nays.

Each of these will constitute the subject-matter of a separate chapter.

Before proceeding to the separate consideration of each of these incidental questions, it must be observed that they are always in order, and for a time take precedence of and suppress the question before the meeting, provided that they refer to that question. Thus it is always in order, during the discussion of any proposition, to move a question of order, or to read papers, or to withdraw a motion, or to suspend a rule, provided that the point of order, the paper, the motion, or the rule has a distinct reference to, and a direct bearing on, the proposition then before the assembly.

These incidental questions are also subject to the operation of sub-