

When Grand Lodges take cognizance of difficulties existing between competing rites, doubtless with the view of passing judgment on the status of either body, it is evident that indiscreet brethren have the ear of such Grand Lodges. The Grand Lodge of Dakota is about to investigate the standing of the Cerneau Scottish Rite in the United States, which is a tacit admission that some of the rites are directly connected with Blue Masonry. As Craft Masonry, in our judgment, ends with the third degree, we fail to see the necessity for, and what is to be gained by, an investigation.

M. W. Bro. R. T. Walken, Q. C., Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, writes "that Miss Dean, of Sydenham, daughter of the late Provincial Grand Master John Dean, has handed to me a large number of valuable papers relating not only to the blue edges but to the different Chapters under the Provincial Grand Lodge of England. I have had these papers placed in the hands of a brother who will sort them out with a view of publishing their contents for the benefit of the Craft, and of procuring material for compiling a history of the Order in this Province."

The W. M. of a lodge in Illinois, being engaged in the saloon business, and prosecuted for violating the laws of the State, knowing that he was liable to a charge of un-Masonic conduct under the constitution of that Grand Lodge, was relieved from office by Grand Master Smith, and another presiding officer appointed. The *Masonic Advocate*, Indianapolis, questions the right of the Grand Master to perform such an

act, and points out how the Grand Lodge regulations have been violated. As the brother is still a member in good standing, the thought that suggests itself is, if a W. M. was guilty of un-Masonic conduct, how is it that a private member is guiltless?

Grand Master Wheeler, of Dakota, in his address at the recent meeting of Grand Lodge in Deadwood, reported two decisions. First, that a lodge under dispensation had the right to discipline its members for un-Masonic conduct; second, an applicant for the degrees of Masonry, who had lost a portion of the index finger, was suitable material. Both decisions were approved. Bro. Dr. Mackey, holds that a lodge U. D. cannot do anything but initiate, pass and raise candidates. As to the second ruling, we believe that physical qualification, or rather perfection, is carried to an absurd point, as moral qualification is a greater necessity than physical perfection.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio has sat upon the Cerneau Rite most emphatically, but in doing so has robbed the brethren of considerable liberty of action, and made them mere machines, who must do the bidding of their temporary superior officers, or suffer the penalties of expulsion. Knock-down arguments may be emphatic, but they are seldom convincing. Here is Ohio's battering ram:—"Resolved, That any Mason subordinate to the authority of this Grand Lodge, who shall hereafter take or receive, or communicate or be present at, or assist any one to take, or apply for said (Cerneau) Degrees, or any of them, shall be subject to expulsion from all the rights and privileges of Masons,