

Lodge at St. Catharines where I was introduced by the late T. B. Harris and duly received as a Past Grand Chaplain and Grand Warden of Nova Scotia. Having affiliated with Tecumseh Lodge, 144, I took a fair share in the working of the Lodge, again and again presiding, at the request of the W.M., and exemplifying the work of the Grand Lodge of Canada in all the degrees. I took part in the installation, or acted as installing officer, at the induction of R. W. Bro. Waugh and others, who passed the chair, while I was a member of Tecumseh. I always understood that I was returned among the Past Masters of Tecumseh, 144, and was requested to attend the meetings of Grand Lodge, but other duties prevented. On removing from Stratford, I was for some time at a distance from any Lodge, but the brethren of Wingham know whether my services as a Past Master were called into requisition occasionally or not. On accepting a call to St. Andrew's church, Trenton, I found Trent Lodge not in such a condition as any lover of the craft could desire. I affiliated, however, and have rendered what assistance I could give (not, I think, unappreciated by the brethren) to bring about the happier condition of things which under W. Bro. Weddell and his able successor, W. Bro. Dench, has been reached in Trent Lodge, 38. The understanding in Trent Lodge has always been that I was returned as a member in good standing, having the rank of Past Master; and when the first opportunity occurred on which I could conveniently visit Grand Lodge I did so, never for a moment imagining that there was the least danger that in so doing the cry would be raised—"A stranger in the gallery."

Begging of you and your readers pardon for inflicting this uninteresting personal history upon them, which, however, the lone and form of the query put by your confrere compelled, I will now, with your permission,

proceed to discuss the question involved, in its more general aspect.

The Grand Lodge of Canada, like every other, has the undoubted right to say who shall be its constituent members. Though not infallible, it is supreme, and its decision, even though it should be erroneous, is final unless it should itself choose to alter it. The question who shall constitute the Grand Lodge must be answered according to circumstances.

(a) If the members of the craft be not too numerous in any jurisdiction the Masters and Wardens and all the Past Masters affiliated with any chartered Lodge, holding of the Grand Lodge, may, with propriety, be admitted to sit and vote, and any others in addition whom the Grand Lodge may designate may enjoy the like privilege.

(b) The number of Lodges may be so great that such a representation would make a Grand Lodge unwieldy from its numbers, and only the immediate Past Masters may be designated as entitled to a seat, or they may be required to cast a vote as a body, but not individually.

The question then to be discussed is not one as to the right of the Grand Lodge to exclude whom it pleases. Being supremè it has that right. Even if it chose to say that only bald-headed men shall have a seat, or men whose patronymic begins with a particular letter of the alphabet. Its decision would be law in its own jurisdiction.

The questions to be discussed are (1) What does the constitution of the Grand Lodge say as to who are entitled to a seat and vote therein, and (2) If, as some affirm, the Grand Lodge has decided that all Past Masters who have served the craft a full term as W. M. in this jurisdiction and are at present in good standing as members in one of its subordinate Lodges shall be entitled to a seat and a vote, but Past Masters whose term of service in the chair was given in another jurisdiction, although at