

change its officers while working under dispensation. If the District Grand Master has been blind to the irregularity, and has not revoked his dispensation, the disgraced brethren must be recalled, and must be placed in the chairs assigned to them by the warrant. Those who had usurped, or wrongfully exercised authority, must surrender their seats; and the Lodge will become painfully aware that its "Makings, Passings, and Raisings," have been irregular—for the obvious reason that the degrees have been conferred by brethren having no authority so to do—and it is by no means clear to me that it will not be necessary for all who have thus received their degrees to go through the ceremonials again to secure their status in the craft.

The manner in which a Lodge under dispensation should be opened is simple, and without any ceremonial display. The District Grand Master forwards to the Brother nominated in the petition to Grand Lodge as Master his dispensation, authorizing the brethren who signed that petition to congregate, for certain prescribed purposes, until a warrant of constitution shall be issued from the Grand Lodge. The Master (to be) thereupon arranges for the brethren to meet him at a place and time named. The brethren accordingly assemble. The Master produces and reads the dispensation. Under its authority he at once assumes the chair, and directs the Wardens to assume theirs. He requests certain brethren to act as assistant officers for that meeting. The Lodge can then, without further formality, proceed to labor. At each meeting of the Lodge brethren are temporarily appointed to the several subordinate offices. It is in the discretion of the Master to appoint the same brethren to the same offices as often as he pleases, but no such appointment is effective beyond the one meeting.

As I have before stated, a dispensation confers but the one right, or privilege—that of making and advancing

Masons. Even thus it may acquire goodly proportions by the time it receives its charter. Its adherents then become members of the constituted Lodge, from amongst whom it can at once elect all necessary assistant officers. Then, and not before, it can augment its roll by affiliations, adopt by-laws, possess a seal, and send its representatives to Grand Lodge. These are considerations too often set aside, the more to be wondered at, as there certainly are brethren of as equal intelligence still adhering to the old constitutions as there are amongst us who have struck out a path for ourselves. I would give offence to none; but the desire to check wrong-doing, and so aid the cause of Masonry, is sufficiently strong with us to induce me fearlessly to expose what I am convinced is wrong, and I now do so in the hope that credit will be given to me for sincerity and good will.

I append a few extracts from works of unquestionable authority. They represent the dicta of eminent Jurists of English, Scotch and American nationalities, and will be found to support the views I have feebly attempted to illustrate; or it would be more honest to admit, my notions of what should, and should not, be done, take their origin from the universally accredited writings of such expert craftsmen as Dr. Oliver, Dr. McKay, and Brothers Preston, Paton, Sickles, and others.

Fraternally yours,

A. W. MANNING, D.G.M.

(We so entirely concur in the above remarks of our learned brother, the Deputy Grand Master of New South Wales, that we gladly transfer the correspondence to our own columns.—ED. CRAFTSMAN.)

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"I'd like to have you give me a good send-off," said a man to the editor the other day. "Well, as soon as my boots come back from the cobbler's I'll do it," was the effective reply.