

himself, of whatever rank, and admit them only by order of the Master. That the Master, having knowledge of the identity and official status of the Grand Master, has neither the right nor power to refuse him admission. That it is the prerogative of the Grand Master to visit, preside over and inspect every lodge in his jurisdiction 'whosoever and whensoever held.' Your committee are further of the opinion that it is the privilege of the Master to have the announcement made that the Grand Master is in waiting—not for the purpose of determining whether he shall be admitted; not for the purpose of ascertaining whether any member of the lodge is unwilling to sit with him, as would be the case with an ordinary visitor—but for the sole purpose of ascertaining (if he does not already know) that he is the Grand Master, and of preparing the lodge to receive him with the honors and consideration due to his exalted station."

The ceremony that should be used is then given as follows :

"The Grand Master being in the ante-room, the tyler gives the alarm and announces that the Grand Master is in waiting. The Master then places the deacons at the sides of the door with their rods crossed; the brethren arrange themselves in a line from the door on each side, extending towards the chair, with a sufficient interval between them. Being arranged in this manner, the Master deposes a Past Master and some other member of the lodge, (two Past Masters if there be that many present) to escort and introduce the Grand Master. This committee open the door and announce to the Grand Master that the lodge is ready to receive him. The door is left open until he enters the lodge, when it will be closed by the tyler. The Grand Master with a member of the respective committee on each side, and the deacons on their extreme right and left with their rods crossed above his head, advances between the lines of the brethren towards the East. The usual sign of recognition is given at the proper place, when the Grand Master will be formally introduced with a few appropriate remarks, which will be responded to by the Master with a little address of welcome, after which the private grand honors may be accorded. The Grand Master will then be further escorted to the East, when the Master resigns to him the seat and gavel. If there be other Grand Officers the corresponding officers of the lodge will resign their respective seats to them also. The Grand Master, if he desires, may appoint *pro tem* Grand Officers to assist him in the visitation and inspection. In such case they enter the lodge immediately following him. All being seated the Master then delivers to the Grand Master the Charter, the Treasurer's and Secretary's books, and a statement of the funds of the lodge, for his inspection. Having examined them and made such inquiries as he may deem necessary concerning the affairs of the lodge, etc., he expresses his approbation, or makes such observations as the circumstances and situation of the lodge may seem to require. The Grand Master then resigns the chair to the Master, the Grand Officers (if there be any) leave their seats and repair to the East, the officers of the lodge resuming their stations. The Grand Master then directs the Master to close the lodge, in order that he may observe and inspect the closing ceremonies."