

fore it becomes the duty of the presiding officer, if such a nomination is made, to decide whether it is or is not in order.

If there be no special regulation in the Constitution of a Grand Lodge, or in the By-Laws of a Subordinate Lodge, which forbids nominations for office, then such nominations are in order; for nomination is the Masonic rule and usage, and the neglect of it the exception.

The oldest record, after the Revival, that we have, informs us that on June 24, 1717, "before dinner, the oldest Master Mason (now the Master of a Lodge) in the chair proposed a list of proper candidates; and the brethren by a majority of hands elected Mr. Anthony Sayre, gent., Grand Master of Masons."—*Anderson Const.*, 2nd edit., p. 109.

All the subsequent records of the Grand Lodge of England show an uninterrupted continuance of the custom, it being for a long time usual for the Acting Grand Master to nominate his successor. The present Constitution of the Grand Lodge requires that "the Grand Master shall, according to an ancient usage, be nominated at the quarterly communication in December." The custom of nomination is practiced in some of the English Lodges, but discontinued in others; and Dr. Oliver in his Jurisprudence, thinks it a practice that is open to objection, because they are, he says, few brethren who would be willing to incur the odium of voting against one who had been nominated. But while disapproving of a nomination on the ground of policy, he does not deny its legality.

If, therefore, there be no regulation of a Grand Lodge or of a Subordinate Lodge, which specifically prohibits nominations for office, such nominations will be in order, and must, when they are made, be entertained by the presiding officer.

CAPTER XXXVII.

OF THE CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES.

The first thing in order, after the ritual ceremonies of opening have been performed, is the reading and confirmation of the Minutes, and the only question to be here considered is the limit that is to be made to proposed amendments or alterations of them; for it is the duty of the Master after the Minutes have been read for the information of the Lodge to inquire, first of the Wardens and then of the brethren, whether they have any alterations or amendments to suggest.

Now, it has sometimes been supposed that if any business has been transacted at the previous meeting of which the Minutes purport to be a record, which it is desired to rescind or repeal, the proper method will be to propose an alteration of the Minutes before confirmation, by which all reference to such business will be stricken out. But this evidently is an erroneous interpretation of the law, and arises from a misunderstanding of the true character of the Minutes.

The Minutes of a Lodge are supposed to be, and ought always to be, "a just and true record of all things proper to be written." They constitute the journal of the proceedings of the meeting to which they refer, as those proceedings actually occurred. If altered by the expurgation of any part, they cease to be a record.

It has occurred in the proceedings of the English Parliament and the American Congress that portions of the journal which contained the record of transactions which had become obnoxious, have been expunged by a vote taken subsequent to their confirmation; and these precedents