

to make such changes, and probably nobody will attempt to dispute the same in the abstract. Each Grand Lodge is the supreme governing body in its own country, and is not amenable to any other body. In like manner the Grand Orient of France has recently changed its Constitution, and followed suit with the Grand Lodge of Belgium.

Masonry, it is universally admitted, and taught by all Masonic bodies, is a PROGRESSIVE SCIENCE; then, where is the limit to its progress? Who can limit the progress which astronomy, anatomy, geology, chemistry and all other sciences have made, and are constantly making? Nearly every great progress in science has been assailed by the theologians and their adherents; men of science have been anathematized, persecuted and excommunicated; still science has steadily progressed and triumphed, and the earth retained its rotundity and motion. Freemasonry itself has undergone such vital changes that the present Order, in substance, differs so much from its origin, that the latter is barely recognizable in our new garb; and who will dispute the right to make further progress in the science?

If then there still exists a strong feeling in favor of the American system of transacting the routine business of the Lodge while it is open in the third degree, and there alone, then let it again be brought before Grand Lodge, but let the advocates of the change in fairness to all, bring up at the same time a motion as to how each separate clause in the Constitution is to be amended, and how our ritual is to be altered, so as to make both in harmony with that proposed change; and

by all means let them no longer blame, as before, the poor Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts. It might also be well to remember that that system is of modern invention, that even the practice of conferring the Master's degree, as now done, is only about 150 years old, that prior to that period only the Master-elect received that degree; that formerly the Fellow Crafts formed the body of Grand Lodge and elected their head from among themselves to preside over them as Grand Master, that even at the present day the W. M.-elect takes his O.B. of office in a F. C. Lodge, and likewise the M. W. the Grand Master and all Grand Lodge officers are, according to ancient form and custom, obligated as Fellow Crafts, and not as Master Masons, in Grand Lodge itself.

By the CRAFTSMAN Reporter.]

#### Laying the Corner Stone of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Brighton, Ont.

A very interesting Communication of the Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. M. of Canada, was held at the village of Brighton, Ont., on Wednesday, Oct., 10th, 1877, for the purpose of laying the Corner Stone of the new Methodist Episcopal Church, now erecting on Main Street, but the one great drawback was the unpropitious weather. From early morn until evening, the sky was continually overcast, and occasional showers of rain fell, some of them quite heavy. Notwithstanding these, however, a large number of the brethren of the various Lodges in the neighborhood met to take part in the interesting ceremony about to be performed, while the sprightly little village, and its vicinity poured out their myriads of the stalwart and fair to see what was going on.