

trict, with the Master of the Lodge on his right hand." (The italics are mine).

It will be here noted, that, in defining the powers of the G. M. or the D. G. M. (when making a visit), there is no ambiguity about the words "full authority," while the change in phraseology to the words "he may preside" is somewhat remarkable, and leads some brethren to the conclusion that this is a simple permission, i.e., that it would be no harm for him to preside, with the concurrence of the W. M., who may, if he pleases, tender him the Gavel, but entirely as an act of courtesy, not as a matter of duty. To quote from your December article: "As the Master of a private Lodge is absolute, and is accountable to none but the Grand Master, so the Grand Master, it seems, is absolute in the Craft, and is only accountable to the Great Architect of the Universe." In the Quebec jurisdiction. "Any Lodge or Brother who may feel aggrieved by the decision of any other Masonic authority or jurisdiction may appeal to the Grand Lodge against such decision."

Now, suppose, under this reading of the law, regarding the powers of the D. D. G. M., he demanded the Gavel as a matter of right, and the W. M. simply gavelled him down—What would be the up-shot?

Then, supposing, the D. D. G. M. was present as a member in the Lodge to which he is attached, and not, as the Constitution states, as a visitor, would he then be at liberty to exercise the permission to preside, which the Constitution grants him? Would it not, in many cases, be necessary for him, in entering any Lodge where he desired to act the Deputy, to record himself as such in the Visitors' book in the ante-room, and to be announced and received by the Lodge, and also that he appear clothed, as provided for by the Constitution?

The Constitution further provides that it is his duty "to visit all the

Lodges in his district during his term of office, to see that such Lodges are working in accordance with the ritual adopted by Grand Lodge." Now, if he presides and does the work, what opportunity has he of judging whether the Master works properly or not? Take this clause in connection with the one that he must be a Past Master—not a present Master—a Past Master is one who has no authority to rule a Lodge, but may confer degrees during the absence or at the request of a Master. In the event of a Master dying, it is the Wardens, not a Past Master, who would act in summoning a Lodge meeting.

The D. D. G. M. is also to see "that returns have been regularly forwarded, with all fees and dues that may have accrued, and on refusal or neglect on the part of any Lodge to make such returns and payments, he may suspend such Lodge. He may hear and determine any subject of Masonic complaint or irregularity respecting Lodges or individual Masons within his district, and he may proceed to admonition or to suspend, until the decision of the Grand Master shall be known thereon. A minute of all such proceedings, stating the offence and the law applicable to it, together with his decision, shall be transmitted to the Grand Master, *through the Grand Secretary*. Now, mark these words well, it must be through the Grand Secretary. He has not the right of direct communication with the G. M., but the D. D. G. M. may be made the means of communication with the G. M. by any Lodge, but the Constitution places the Grand Secretary first in communicating the channels through which communication may be had with the Grand Master. The Constitution gives him no power to expel a Mason, but he may restore a brother, if he finds he has been unjustly or illegally suspended, removed or excluded from any of his Masonic functions or privileges by a Lodge