

Lodge can touch no regulation after the decree of the Grand Lodge for its confirmation has been passed. The regulation has gone out of the control of the Lodge, and its only duty then is implicit obedience. Hence it follows that it is not competent for a subordinate Lodge, even by unanimous consent, to suspend any of its by-laws.

A. MASONIC BAPTISM.

A VERY DEEPLY INTERESTING CEREMONY.

The Washington *Star* has the following: "The first public Masonic baptism of children which has ever taken place in the district was performed last night in the chapter chamber, Masonic Temple, in the presence of a large number of Masons, their wives and daughters. The children were, an infant son of Bro. Dr. Joseph W. Nairn, 32nd degree, and a son of Bro. E. B. McGrotty, 18th degree, who were baptised in Mithras Lodge of Perfection, Ancient Scottish Rite, which is the Consistory of this Masonic jurisdiction. The rite was performed by Thrice Illustrious P. G. M. Albert Pike, assisted by Illustrious J. O. Sinclair, S. G. W.; Illustrious L. H. Pike, J. G. W.; C. W. Bennet, grand orator; W. M. Ireland, master of ceremonies; B. F. Hedrich, senior deacon; C. T. Nutze, junior deacon; Rev. Bro. Harris, chaplain; H. J. Markin, secretary; and L. Stoddard, tyler. The ceremony of Masonic baptism has always been celebrated in the ancient and accepted Scottish order. It has been censured by many as an irreverent imitation of the Christian rite of baptism; but well informed Masons know that purification by washing was used in all the mysteries thousands of years before our era. After the assembly had been seated, Grand Master Pike gave a short history of the ceremony, saying that it taught neither hatred, intolerance or revenge. After a voluntary on the organ by brother Servoss, a rap was heard at the door, and the information given that two children, with their parents, desired admission, the parents praying that their children might be baptised, when the master directed the master of ceremonies and his aids to

BRING THE CHILDREN,

their parents and sponsors into the lodge. Soon after the master of ceremonies returned, followed by one of his assistants bearing a candlestick with three lighted candles—one white, one black and one red—forming a triangle. Following were two assistants, one carrying the child of Dr. Nairn, Robert Bruce Nairn, upon a cushion covered with light blue silk, the other leading the child of Bro. McGrotty, Edward Albert McGrotty; and behind these came the parents of the children, and the sponsors. The sponsors for the son of Dr. Nairn, were Dr. J. B. Gibbs, 32nd degree, and Caroline F. Davis; for Master McGrotty, Jerome C. Davis, 32nd degree, and Mrs. M. Walker. After the third circuit of the room the procession halted, and the candlestick was placed before the altar, and the children returned to their mothers, who with their sponsors, took seats in the centre of the room. The Masonic choir then sang 'My soul doth magnify the Lord.' After an oration by the master, in which he explained the duties and responsibilities which the lodge was about to assume in conferring the rite, he then asked the fathers; 'Are you willing that we should accept these duties?' An affirmative response being given, the master called upon the chaplain to invoke the favor and assistance of God, which was done, the brethren