

all his privileges of a Mason, there can be no doubt; but there are those who hold, that it goes no further than this: and that the Grand Lodge cannot compel his particular Lodge to accept him as a member.

Now I beg to submit that, the right to enter a masonic lodge is a *privilege*, and a *great* privilege as every mason learned on his initiation; and that a person on his initiation becomes a member of the lodge which initiates him, and thereby becomes entitled to certain masonic privileges, which increases as he advances in the degrees; and which may be taken away from him for cause.

If then as you say, there is no doubt that the removal of the suspension restores him to ALL his privileges as a Mason, it necessarily restores him to membership of his particular lodge.—Membership being *one* of the great masonic privileges which none but Masons can claim or enjoy.

The Constitution on Appeal, distinctly informs us, that the Grand Lodge possesses supreme superintending authority, and the power of finally deciding on every case which concerns the interest of the Craft; and that any lodge or brother may appeal to the Grand Lodge against the decision of any other masonic authority.

The Board of General Purposes has authority to hear and determine all subjects of masonic complaint, or irregularity respecting lodges or individual masons, when regularly brought before it. It may proceed to admonition, fine or suspension, according to the laws; and its decision shall be final, unless an appeal be made to Grand Lodge.

It is somewhat singular that while the Constitution enumerates the powers of the Board of General Purposes, it omits to mention that that Board has also power to REMOVE a suspension inflicted on a brother by a private lodge; hence that power can only be assumed by inference. The Grand Lodge undoubtedly possesses the powers to remove a suspension, and the Board of General Purposes, being its Executive Committee, it may be inferred with good reason, that while said Board has the power to suspend, it also has the power to remove a suspension inflicted by a private lodge. This inference seems to be fully justified since the Constitution confers upon an inferior masonic authority, than that of the Board of General Purposes, the power to remove a suspension inflicted by a private lodge. A single District Deputy Grand Master may order a brother to be immediately restored, if that Deputy feels justified that such brother has been unjustly or illegally suspended, removed or excluded from any of his masonic functions or privileges by a lodge within such Deputy's district; and may suspend until the next communication of Grand Lodge, the lodge or brother who shall refuse to comply with such order. Here it is as plainly laid down as language admits: that [a District Deputy Grand Master has power to restore a brother to all the privileges of his own lodge. And as a matter of course, thereby compelling that lodge to accept him as a member. Can it therefore be doubted, for one moment, that the Grand Lodge does possess a like power?

Having thus considered the subject abstractedly as a mere matter of right or privilege, it may not be out of place to examine it relatively and to enquire, whether a removal or the suspension is *alone* sufficient to enable or permit the brother from whom such suspension has been removed—to again enter his lodge, and whether there may not be other reasons