

of the Grand Z., which report was adopted by Grand Chapter, state that "the precautions taken by him before granting dispensations are specially worthy of our commendation," and in 1881 the committee of Grand Chapter, in their report upon the Grand Z.'s address, again refer to the subject, and state that they "are glad to perceive that the number of special dispensations granted is diminishing, and trust that in the near future the necessity for such dispensations will be entirely removed."—(See Pro. 1881, p. 47.)

Your attention is also called to clause xv. of the Constitution which provides especially for the eligibility of Companions for the chair of First Principal:—"No Companion shall be eligible for the First Principal's Chair unless he be an installed Master or Past Master of a regular Lodge, nor until he has served in the Second Principal's Chair for twelve months, nor to the Second until he has served in the Third Principal's Chair for twelve months, unless by special dispensation from the Grand First Principal."

As an officer of the Grand Chapter I am in complete harmony with the views expressed and confirmed by Grand Chapter, and therefore respectfully urge Companions in selecting officers to avoid, if possible, conflict with the decision of Grand Chapter as well as with the views of the highly esteemed M.E. Companion who at present holds the sceptre of the Grand First Principal.

VOUCHING.

The special attention of members of Chapters is called to clause ci. of the Constitution, in reference to visitors, as there is reason to believe that in many Chapters in this district visitors are admitted on a mere nominal examination, even without the production of a certificate. This statement applies more especially to Royal Arch Companions from jurisdictions outside of the Grand Chapter of Canada. You will therefore be particularly guarded in the admission of visitors; in the examination use the greatest care and insist on the production of a Royal Arch Certificate or Demit. I am credibly informed that suspended Companions from several foreign jurisdictions have visited Chapters in this jurisdiction.

FEES AND DUES.

I regret to learn that in many Chapters in this District there are large numbers of Companions in arrear for dues, in some cases for two, three and four years. I need hardly remark that such a state of things should not be permitted to continue, and that all Companions in arrear should be promptly read out at the December meeting, and duly summoned to show cause why they should not be suspended for n. p. d. If the Com-

panions so summoned are well able to pay, but will not, there is but one course, and that is suspension; if, on the other hand, circumstances are such as to render it impossible through sickness and distress to place themselves clear on the books, their dues should be remitted. Companions will note that the amount required for Chapter dues is small—about one cent per day—a sum so infinitesimal that it seems to me that every Companion should be able to liquidate.

CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.

It is my present intention to hold a District Chapter Meeting for Instruction in Toronto during the month of February. The arrangements will be communicated to you in a future circular. I cordially invite your hearty co-operation.

SENDING OF CIRCULARS.

Will you kindly direct your Scribe E. to send me regularly a copy of the circular issued calling the meeting of your Chapter.

COPIES OF THE CONSTITUTION.

The new Constitution of Grand Chapter is now ready, and copies may be procured from the Grand Scribe E. It is highly desirable that all Chapters should order copies, so that every Companion in the district may not only be provided with a copy, but make himself thoroughly conversant with its contents.

INSURANCE.

The late fire at York Chapter Hall, Eglinton, reminds me that it is absolutely necessary that the property of every Chapter should be fully insured, so that heavy loss may be avoided. York Chapter property was fully insured, but another Masonic body, meeting in the same building, lost \$400 through neglecting to attend to this important duty.

In conclusion. I beg to state that my time is at the disposal of Chapters, and upon reasonable notice I shall always be available. I trust to be able to officially visit all the Chapters in this jurisdiction during the next few months, and in so doing, would like to consult as much as possible the convenience of Companions.

Companions, either officers or members of Chapters, visiting Toronto, are invited to call, and I can assure them that in every way possible I shall endeavor to make their visit pleasurable.

You will be good enough to read this circular in open Chapter, and spread the same on your minutes, for which purpose a duplicate copy is enclosed.

I am, My dear Sir and Ex. Comp.,
Yours Fraternally,

J. ROSS ROBERTSON, J.S.T.D.