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LODGES UNDER DISPENSATION.

To the Editor of "The Sydney Freemason."

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—My attention has frequently been arrested by published accounts of proceedings of our Brethren of Sister Constitutions in connection with the opening, and subsequent working, of Lodges under dispensation. The installation of the presiding officer of such a Lodge is of frequent, if not general, occurrence; as, also, the election of assistant officers, the admission to membership by affiliation, and the making of by-laws. Irregular as all this undoubtedly is, it sinks into comparative insignificance before the crowning blunder of a change of Master and Wardens (?) by which the legal status of the Lodge is impaired, if not absolutely destroyed.

Lodges under dispensation, though imperfect and temporary organizations—not being constituted, and without representation in Grand Lodge—are bound to observe the regulations and usages of the Grand Lodge under which the issue of the dispensation is authorized; and they are as liable to censure, and even to extinction, as any Warranted Lodge would be for disobeying those regulations or ignoring those usages. But our brethren of other constitutions, E.C. and S.C., appear to think it unnecessary to submit to such restriction, or more probably, are entirely ignorant of the existence of those stringent rules which every Grand Lodge has, in its collect-

ive wisdom, deemed it all important to promulgate. Were brethren better informed, and District Grand Masters more vigilant, the irregularities to which I refer would seldom, if ever, occur.

It is altogether a fallacy to suppose it possible to clothe a Lodge working under dispensation with the full powers and privileges of a chartered Lodge. While awaiting the issue of a charter by the Grand Lodge to which its petition has been accepted, it is simply an assemblage of duly registered masons, permitted by the District Grand Master (in this colony) to "Make, Pass, and Raise Masons," and no more. The dispensation under which the brethren meet, has named who shall be Master and Wardens during the currency of that dispensation; and no authority is given to displace the three rulers so appointed (who are, in fact, the Lodge), and to substitute others. Those originally nominated in the petition to Grand Lodge, and, therefore, temporarily appointed by the District Grand Master, must retain their position so long as the dispensation is the authority for assembling; and as they, and they only, will be named in the warrant of constitution, it follows, as a necessity, that they, and they only, can be installed as the first Master and Wardens of the constituted Lodge. Discredit will fall upon the Lodge that has ventured to