

the Secretary—John McDonald—for the books of the Lodge, but was told in reply that I might examine them, but should not take possession of them. I suffered the humility of examining them under these conditions, and observed that the business of the Lodge at that meeting, 17th December, had been conducted by a suspended Mason—E. J. Conklin—assisted by the Senior and Junior Wardens and other officers of the Lodge, in presence of Past Grand Master Kennedy, Past Master Hursell, and other Masons who were acquainted with said suspension. As the Secretary was not summoned under this charge—refusing to give me the books of the Lodge—before the Board of General Purposes with the other officers of the Lodge, I have now to ask you to consider his offence.

As I have been reliably informed that Lisgar Lodge has continued to hold its meetings since I arrested the Charter and suspended the Lodge on the 12th Nov. ult., I have to ask that you will also pronounce upon the clandestine movements of that Lodge.

Until the grievances of the disaffected Brethren have been submitted, this Grand Lodge can only deal with the several offences and irregularities of the Brethren as they have occurred and may transpire.

The records of this Grand Lodge will show that every motion to establish a ritual—the supposed cause of grievance—has been made by Masons who are now in rebellion! The records will also show that all proper kindness and forbearance has been shown them, but I think the time has come when stringent and decisive action is required by this Grand Lodge, to maintain its present standing with sister Grand Lodges.

I have thus placed before you, Brethren, in as succinct a manner as possible, the facts regarding the alleged difficulties in this Grand Lodge and leave the matter in your hands.

In conclusion, permit me to urge upon you a continuance of that kindness and Brotherly love which has characterized your conduct in the past, and while it is necessary, in order to preserve subordination, that some must rule and others submit and obey, let proper humility be exercised by each; may you have wisdom from on high to direct you to the faithful discharge of the important duties for which you have assembled, and may that "Charity which suffereth long and is kind," distinguish you as men and Masons is the earnest solicitation of

GEO. F. NEWCOMB,
Grand Master.

M. W. Bro. W. N. Kennedy stated, verbally, that he would not occupy

the time of Grand Lodge. One view of the matter had been presented by the Grand Master—he viewed the matter from a different stand-point: a certain Ritual had been forced upon Grand Lodge, or at least all Lodges to be hereafter formed were to be required to conform to a certain "work." A notice of motion had also been given at the last Annual Communication of Grand Lodge to force all Lodges to conform to the same work. He strongly objected to this. If the Grand Lodge would consent to leave the matter of Ritual an open question he would be willing to bow in allegiance to the Grand Master and Grand Lodge. If it was not agreed to leave the question of Ritual open, he would not say what might happen, as he was only acting for a number of others.

V. W. Bro. Belch stated that he objected to the minority dictating terms to the majority; but that he was willing for the sake of peace and harmony to pledge himself to use his endeavors to have the question of Ritual left open.

The Grand Secretary remarked that, as it seemed his notice of motion had given Bro. Kennedy and others, some offence, he wished it understood, and he would pledge himself, if suitable apology was made to the Grand Master and Grand Lodge by Bro. Kennedy and the other offending brethren, that he would withdraw the notice of motion, or so amend it as to "recommend" instead of "require" Lodges to conform to the A. Y. Rite.

The M. W. Grand Master said he would also use his influence as a member of Grand Lodge in the same direction.

In reply to the Grand Master, Bro. Carruthers stated that he had no defence to offer, but left the matter with Bro. W. N. Kennedy, and would abide by any arrangement he made, and then asked permission to retire, which was granted to him and to Bro. W. G. Scott.

Bro. W. N. Kennedy then expressed