

## RIGHT OF OBJECTION.

We take the following interesting extract from the Report on Foreign Correspondence of the Grand Lodge of Maine (Bro. Joseph H. Drummond, Chairman.) In response to the Grand Master of the District of Columbia, the following replies were received:

The Grand Masters of Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania, reply that upon objection by a member to the admission of a visitor, the Master is bound to exclude him, without enquiry respecting the reasons.

The Grand Masters of South Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Connecticut, Nevada, and Massachusetts, and Bro. Mackey, reply, that the objector must have made known his reasons, and the Master must judge of their efficiency, subject to appeal to the Grand Lodge. The Grand Master of Massachusetts holds that a Mason in good standing has the *right* to visit: but that the W. Master may exclude, but if he does, "he must do it upon such grounds as will justify his conduct before the Grand Lodge."

The Grand Masters of Florida and Tennessee (though the latter said he was unable to consult the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge,) and Bros. Dawson, of Florida, and Bromwell of Illinois, P. G. Masters, hold that the objector shall make his reasons known to the lodge, and it must judge of their sufficiency and admit or exclude the visitor.

Of these Bro's Mackey and Dawson hold that the objector is responsible to the lodge, while the Grand Masters of South Carolina and Mississippi hold that he is not.

At the same time the Grand Secretary issued a circular to other Grand Secretaries, and others, containing the following enquiries:

"Has the W. M. of a lodge in your jurisdiction the right to admit a visiting brother to his lodge, over the objection of a brother, who is a member of the lodge, in good and regular standing? [1.] Has he the right to ask him his reasons for making the objections? [2.]

Brothers Simons, of New York, Gray, of Mississippi, and Drummond, of Maine, answer both questions in the negative.

So do the Grand Secretaries of Iowa, Tennessee, Virginia, Missouri, North Carolina, Illinois, Georgia, Louisiana (by decision of Grand Lodge), Indiana (by Grand Lodge regulations), Idaho, Montana (by Grand Lodge regulations), Colorado (by Grand Lodge decision), Ohio (by Grand Lodge Code), Washington (by Grand Lodge regulation), New Hampshire (*per* Brother Horace Chase), Mississippi, Maine (by Grand Lodge decision), Texas (by Grand Lodge resolution), New Jersey, Delaware, Kentucky, and Minnesota (by Grand Lodge decision), twenty-two Grand Lodges.

The Grand Secretary of Michigan replies that they never had such a case in that jurisdiction, but thinks the master would not be sustained in such a course.

The Grand Secretary of Maryland replies that there is no decision of the Grand Lodge upon the question, the nearest to it being a decision that it is a privilege, and not a right, to visit.

The Grand Secretary of Arkansas replies that the question never has arisen, but he thinks the right of visitation has never been denied to an affiliated mason in good standing.

It is held in Alabama and Florida, by Grand Lodge decision, that a visitor can be excluded only *for good cause shown to the lodge*.