

now demanding a higher standard of morality from the applicant for admission into our Order, and a more consistent walk from those who are already within our fold. Old debts that have been hanging over our Craft for many years are being reduced. Some enterprising Lodges are tearing down their old Halls and building new ones. A spirit of generous rivalry is being stirred up among the Craft; and although some of our Lodges have not kept in line and pressed forward in this grand onward march, yet I must congratulate you on the prosperous condition of the Craft in our jurisdiction.

One of the most remarkable applications for a dispensation ever made to a Grand Master, we suppose, was reported by Grand Master Diver, and was to enable a Lodge to confer the Degrees of Masonry upon a candidate blind in both eyes. The application was, of course, refused. It is simply absurd to find how ignorant some Masters of Lodges are of the very first principles of Masonic law. The application above referred to, untenable as it was from every Masonic standpoint, was signed by the Worshipful Master and Secretary of a Lodge, bore the Lodge Seal, and had the endorsement of the Worshipful Masters of three other Lodges and several Past Masters. We find in this fact a powerful illustration in support of our argument against installing into the chair any Master-elect who has not passed a satisfactory examination as well in Masonic law as in ritual.

A peculiar practice that had prevailed to some extent in this jurisdiction is thus indicated by the Grand Master:—

It has been brought to my attention that, to a greater or less extent, a custom has obtained in some districts of this jurisdiction of "funeralizing" the dead, as it is called—that is, that some time after a Mason has been buried, his Lodge is summoned, and repair to the closed grave and perform a funeral service. There is no warrant for such a proceeding; and in the opinion of your Grand Master it is not only inconsistent with the beautiful burial service contained in the Ahiman Rezon, or Book of Constitutions, but is almost a travesty of it. Should a Lodge desire to have a special service in memory of a deceased Brother, it may hold a Lodge of Sorrow, either in the Lodge Room, or in a church or other place, where the family of the deceased might attend.

The Grand Lodges of Victoria and New South Wales were recognized.

There are 172 Chartered Lodges in South Carolina, and they report a membership of 5,239.

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