

an accomplished and unchangeable fact. This is recognized parliamentary practice, and I see no reason why it should not be pursued in the proceedings of Masonic bodies.

6. The first effect of a motion for reconsideration is, that during its pendency the operation of the original motion is suspended. Thus a resolution having been adopted to execute a certain act, and a motion to reconsider that act having been made, the act cannot be executed until the motion for reconsideration has been disposed of.

7. The effect of the motion to reconsider, if it is carried, is to place the original proposition in precisely the position it occupied a moment before its adoption. We are not carried back to the form of the original proposition when it was first introduced, but to the form which it had assumed at the time that the final vote on its adoption was taken. Thus, we will suppose that a resolution has been proposed, which we will call A; to this B has been offered as an amendment, so as to give it the form of A B; and to this again another amendment, C, has been proposed, so as to make it assume the form of A B C. Both amendments being carried, the vote is taken on the proposition in its amended form A B C, and, this being adopted, a motion for reconsideration is made and carried. Now, the effect of this will be present to the assembly for discussion, not the original proposition A, but the proposition in its amended form, A B C. The motion for reconsideration applies not to all the preliminary proceedings, but only to the final vote. So, in parliamentary practice, when a bill has been read a third time and passed a motion for reconsideration, if it prevails, places the bill in the position of having received its second reading, and not the first or the second, but only the third reading is brought by the reconsideration before the house to be again acted upon.

8. When the motion for reconsideration has been carried, the original proposition to be reconsidered comes up immediately for action. It may be discussed, (if it is a debatable question,) amended, postponed, laid on the table, or subjected to any other operation to which it was liable during its original passage. And the effect of a successful motion for reconsideration is such, that even if the original proposition were not then before the assembly, but, having being adopted, other measures had been acted on, it comes up immediately for action. In Congress it would at once take the place to which it belongs in the general order of business, or would go over to the next day on which business of the same description would be in order. But in a Lodge, whose session seldom exceeds a few hours, no such nicety of arrangement can be observed, and the discussion of the proposition ordered to be reconsidered must immediately follow upon the vote for reconsideration.

All that has been said in this chapter refers to the reconsideration of motions or resolutions. The reconsideration of the ballot is an entirely different thing, and will form the subject of the succeeding chapter.

The Grand Lodge of Tennessee has decided that non-affiliation does not deprive a brother of his individual rights as a Mason, but only of such additional rights as are acquired by Lodge membership, while it urges affiliation as a duty. It also recommends that the Grand Master gives his official opinion on no question except such as actually exists before some Subordinate Lodge, and which has been certified to him.