

the sister Great Priors in Great Britain and Ireland, and with the sister Grand Encampment of the United States of America, and the Grand Commanderies of the several States, and with all Frates throughout the world, be more intimate and binding than heretofore. And may the Most High evermore bestow His blessing upon us and upon all members of our beloved Order whithersoever dispersed.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed by the committee.

Ottawa, 10th July, 1883.

Moved by R. E. Sir Knight J. H. Graham, seconded by R. E. Sir Knight Daniel Spry, and unanimously

RESOLVED,—That the Report of the Committee on standing of Great Priory be adopted.

Moved by R. E. Sir Knight D. Henderson, seconded by R. E. Sir Knight J. H. Graham, and

RESOLVED,—That this National Great Priory of Canada hereby authorizes and empowers the M. E. the Great Prior to act on the recommendations and suggestions contained in the Report just adopted by this Great Priory, and the M. E. the Great Prior having given his assent to the movement and accorded his hearty co-operation, do take proceedings forthwith to carry out the expressed wishes of this Body, namely, the independence of this Great Priory of Canada.

[SEAL.] DANIEL SPRY,  
Barrie, Aug. 10, 1883. Grand Chancellor.

### PERSONAL RIGHTS.

Our annual review of the proceedings of the different Grand Lodges on this continent brings to our notice many questions of what is termed Masonic law, and the varying decisions in regard to any given questions. A full review of these questions and decisions would make a more than ordinarily interesting volume, and had we time, apart from the daily treadmill, we can hardly think of anything we would rather do than to present in such a volume the *pros* and *cons* of the

never-ending judgments by the Grand Lodges. We select at this time, however, one which is now going the rounds of discussion, and which is intrinsically of greater importance than appears upon the surface, as it relates to the personal rights of an unaffiliated Master Mason.

In New York, it is held that the law of residence applies only to profanes seeking initiation, who, in addition to other qualifications, must apply to the lodge nearest the place of residence, except in large cities or towns where the lodges have concurrent jurisdiction; but a Master Mason may apply to any lodge in or out of the jurisdiction, as may be most agreeable to himself. In one of the Western States the law requires the unaffiliate to apply to some lodge therein, on the ground that, being a resident, he is their material, and they will not allow any one else to work it up.

In various others the regulations are that the unaffiliate must petition the lodge nearest his place of residence, and, being refused, cannot apply elsewhere, but may save his bacon, so to speak, by paying to a lodge the regular annual dues, and thus become a Mason at large—not belonging anywhere in particular, but entitled to all the rights and privileges just the same.

Now we insist, and so does the Constitution of this jurisdiction, that a member of a lodge having paid all indebtedness thereto and not being under charges, may become a voluntary unaffiliate, and the lodge has no option in the matter.

Being in this condition, he may join a lodge willing to accept him, in Maine, Louisiana, Minnesota, or anywhere else, according to his own sweet will, and we have nothing to say on the subject.

It seems to us that a person thus placed is exactly in the position, supposing him to have been elected in the lodge of his choice, whether in or out of the jurisdiction where he resides, of one who has been regularly initiated, passed and raised in that particular-