

a grievance between Bros. Campbell and Jones." We frequently meet such a notice as this in the minutes; it shews the true spirit of the order, viz: to cultivate and perpetuate brotherly love. It is one of the first lessons taught our candidates, and should be one of the most strongly marked characteristics of our institution in practice as well as theory.

On the 6th June 1811, it was moved and carried by show of hands, that the Lodge be adjourned until Thursday evening, and on the 13th the Lodge re-assembled pursuant to adjournment, when the Master and both Wardens were elected by open vote, such a practice was utterly unconstitutional. The brother who occupied the chair *pro tem.*, on the 6th and 13th, ought to have known that no Lodge can be held without being regularly called together, and that the By-Laws of his Lodge laid it down expressly that the officers were to be elected by ballot. The Bro. Carlisle who was thus irregularly elected Master, appears by the minutes of the 4th April, to have been then but a visiting brother, on the 2nd May he is noted as occupying the chair of J. D., on the 14th that of S. W., on the 6th June he does not appear to have been present, but on the 13th, the day to which the Lodge was adjourned and on which he was so irregularly elected to preside, he acted as Master of the Lodge. It is to be presumed that he had been Master of some other Lodge, but there is no information given in the minutes as to this, or when he joined No. 6; if such an instance of gross irregularity took place in these days, there is no doubt but that the D.D.G.M. would at once suspend the Lodge, and he would be doing only his duty.

On the 12th July, "a motion was made by the W. M., that Bro. William Patten's certificate should be signed, likewise a certificate from the Mark Lodge should be given him, his behaviour during his stay in Kingston having merited the same. Bro. Patten's certificate was made out accordingly, and signed by the officers. Bro. Wm. Patten then declared off in presence of the Body, Bro. John Campbell likewise declared off before the Body." Perhaps many of our remarks may be considered censorious, so it is as well to say a little on the other side, and here is an opportunity; in the above extract the good old English doctrine is recognized that a Mason may at any time "declare off before the Body," or retire from membership, if no charges are against him and his dues are all paid, but we think something further is implied, and that is, that the Lodge may give him a certificate of good conduct, if it is thought that he has by his behaviour while a member "merited the same." We gather this from the fact that nothing is said about giving a certificate to the other brother who retired from membership at the same time, it would thus appear evident that something more was meant than such a certificate as is referred to in the present book of Constitutions, Of Certificates Clause 6. No doubt most of your readers are aware that many of the U. S. Grand Lodges do not permit any brother to retire from membership in his Lodge without permission given by vote, and that all unaffiliated masons are in bad standing as masons, this is hardly what one would call Freemasonry, but a heavy bond which many brothers have not the power to live up to, granted freely that it is a Mason's bounden duty to belong to a Lodge, and that he

loses many a happy hour, and many a valuable privilege, if he does not do so, but we can easily conceive that many causes may exist which will effectually prevent him from being a member of a Lodge, if he desired it ever so much—in fact the rule must work both ways in order to be equal, and so long as it remains the law, that a brother must undergo the ballot before he becomes a member of a Lodge, just so long must it be conceded that a Mason *may* be in good standing while unaffiliated, and while lamenting that any brother should so far forget his duty as to shirk his share in the active labors of the fraternity, it must be confessed that in the great majority of cases, we are well rid of him. From the foregoing extract we also perceive that Lodges had control of the mark degree, which indeed if practiced at all should never have been separated from them.

On the 24th July it was resolved that as "Doctor ——— absolutely refuses to assist his wife in returning home to her friends, or to render her a support here, the Body should allow fifteen dollars from the funds, and that a letter should be furnished to Mrs. ——— of the transaction of Lodge No. 6, with a recommendation to the Lodge in Montreal for further assistance." And on the 1st August, a complaint was laid against the same Brother for having left his lawful wife in the United States, coming into Canada and living in adultery with another woman, and for absolutely refusing to aid his lawful wife in her wants, but to continue in the same unlawful way of life; a second complaint was made against the Brother for having used the Lodge with the greatest contempt." The offending Brother was "suspended for the ensuing six months, that during that space of time he should if possible clear up his character if it is in his power, and again become a worthy member." It is lamentable to have to record that such an offence against good morals should have been committed by a Freemason. The erring brother, might justly have been cut off from the order, but the Lodge "neither palliating nor aggravating the offence," took care to "judge with candor, to admonish with friendship," and above all to "reprehend with mercy," at the same time not forgetting "to relieve the distresses and soothe the afflictions" of the injured one. This is true Freemasonry, very different from the sham sort that vaunts itself in showy addresses and masonic jewellery.

The following memorandum appears under date 2nd Dec. 1813. "Recorded for the information of succeeding Lodges, that owing to the unpleasant situation of public affairs, and various inconveniences occasioned by the war. Lodge No. 6, Ancient York Masons, have been unavoidably prevented from meeting in regular form during the months of May, June, July, August, September, October, and November of this year. By order of the Wor. Master, A. Metcalf Secretary." After this time the Lodge resumed its regular meeting, holding also frequent Lodges of Emergency.

The numbers were added to by Masons joining from other places and by initiations, while now and then a Brother would withdraw, but the minutes possess no outside interest, being but a dry detail of the proceedings, leaving nothing even to find fault with. We note however, an extract from the meeting of 6th March, 1817. "A motion was made from the chair, that the business between Brothers Young