

### QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

*Question.*—A petition for membership being presented to the lodge (which of course must lie over four weeks), can the committee appointed on the petition bring in their report at the following stated meeting, which occurs two weeks after the petition is presented, or must they wait four weeks before reporting?

*Answer.*—The law requires a petition to lie over four weeks after being presented. By this we understand that four weeks must elapse before any further action can be had concerning it in the lodge. The report of a committee on character is for the benefit of those who are present to vote on the petition, and as the ballot must follow the report, the only proper time for making a report must be at the stated meeting when the balloting is to be done.

*Q.*—Has a member of a lodge a right to permit another to see the color of his ballot, and thus disclose how he voted?

*A.*—Most certainly not. The ballot must be absolutely secret. If one brother may show how he votes, every brother may do so, and should there be one voting a black ball, he is detected and the ballot is by no means a secret one. The lodge that will permit such a thing to be done should have its charter arrested at once.—*Ex.*

**THE MARK.**—This degree when worked in Craft Lodges under the S. C., is recognized by the Supreme Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, and all Mark Lodges holding under it. It is, we are informed, the intention of several of the S. C. Lodges in the North Island to include the Mark in their working, for which a small fee, to cover expenses, diploma, &c., will be charged. This should make the Lodges more attractive, as the Mark is a very interesting degree.—*New Zealand Freemason.*

### MASONIC ITEMS.

At a recent meeting of Faithful Brethren Lodge, advantage was taken of the opportunity by the officers and members of the lodge to present to W. Bro. John McMillan, retiring W. M., a beautiful Past Master's jewel. W. Bro. McMillan acknowledged the pleasure he felt in receiving the jewel in a brief but very appropriate speech. W. Bro. McMillan has been connected with the Faithful Brethren Lodge for the past eighteen years, and well deserves this recognition of his services.

**AN OLD MASONIC JEWEL.**—Mr. David Bell, of Rockton, Ont., has a Masonic Past Master's jewel which is of considerable interest. It was found lately by a carpenter in tearing down an old frame house which formerly stood in the village of Romulus. The jewel consists of interlaced triangles enclosed within a circle. On the obverse the circle is engraved with the words:—"Des. Reg. Fratribus. Honor. Fidelitas. Benevolentia." On the one triangle:—"Wisdom, Strength, Beauty." On the other:—"Truth, Peace, Concord." On a scroll at the bottom:—"John Bently, fecit." On the reverse the circle is inscribed:—"Talia si jungere possis sit tibi scire satis." At the bottom on one side is the date:—"A. L. 5792." On the other side:—"A. D. 1788." On the one triangle the inscription is, "Eureka Su. Invenimus. We have found." On the other:—"Cultor Dei. Civis Mundi. Thos. Sketchely." On the scroll at the bottom:—"Nil nisi clavis de est." The jewel was probably presented to Thomas Sketchley when he had passed the Master's chair. Probably some of the older members of the Order can remember such a man among the early settlers of Beverly. Romulus was at one time a small village, near Sheffield, in the township of Beverly.

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