

named in the Constitution, who may communicate with the Grand Master direct. It is eminently proper that all business matters should pass through the hands of the Grand Secretary, so that he may be informed of what is going on, and keep the records in proper shape. There may, however, be cases in which this course may not be necessary, and also in urgent matters, it is only proper that the District Deputy Grand Master, who is the representative of the Grand Master in his district, should be able to communicate directly with the official head of the Craft.

The District Deputy Grand Master may preside in every Lodge he visits within his district, with the Master of the Lodge on his right hand. Prior to his entrance into the Lodge, he is the same as any other visitor. He should sign his name in the visitors' book, and be properly announced. He must be vouched for the same as any other visitor; or a committee must be sent out to examine him in the usual way. If he is properly announced by his official title, due respect should be paid to his rank, and two Stewards, with generally a Past Master, should be sent out to receive him and introduce him to the Lodge. On his entrance and reception, the Master should tender him the gavel. We take it that the expression "he may preside," means that he has the right to take the chair if he chooses, or he may decline, if he wishes to observe the proceedings. The Master should recognize that right, and show due respect to his official superior, by offering to resign his position to the representative of the Grand Master. It is usual for the District Deputy Grand Master to take the chair, if only for a few moments; and after a few remarks to the Lodge, he requests the Master to resume his position and proceed with the work of the evening.

It being the duty of the District Deputy Grand Master to visit all the Lodges in his district, he has of

course a right to visit, and the Lodge cannot refuse him admission. It being his right to preside, if the gavel is not offered to him, he may demand it, and in the event of a refusal, he would be justified in immediately suspending the Master and reporting the facts to the Grand Master. The Master is absolute in his Lodge, but there is no doubt that if the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master is present he loses his absolutism, as they have "full authority" to preside. We believe that the District Deputy Grand Master has the same "full authority" to preside. The words "he may preside," do not simply mean that it would be no harm for him to preside. That would be a forced construction, and one which would render the clause wholly unnecessary. If his presiding depended on the pleasure of the Master, there would be no necessity for that clause, as the Master has the power to permit any Past Master to take the chair. The clause must have been inserted in the Constitution with some object in view; and that object was to give the District Deputy Grand Master power and full authority to preside if he chooses in any Lodge in his district.

This view is further borne out by several other clauses of the Constitution, in which the subordination of the Master to the District Deputy Grand Master is clearly stated, as will be seen hereafter.

The District Deputy Grand Master may suspend a Lodge for a refusal or neglect to make the returns and payments to Grand Lodge. This is a necessary sequence to the duty of a District Deputy Grand Master to see that the returns and fees have been regularly forwarded to the Grand Secretary. He should call the attention of the Lodge and its officers to the penalty to which they are liable, and show them the consequences of their refusal or neglect. If they continue disobedient, after time has been afforded them to comply, it is in his discretion to inflict the penalty.