

of the degree or from the date of his affiliation?

7. What steps can be taken to compel these brethren to take their dimit as promised by them in the letter of guarantee which procured the recommendation of the D.D.G.M., and without which the dispensation would not have been issued?

SPHINX.

ANSWERS TO "SPHINX."

1. The W. M. of a Lodge is its presiding officer. He is the brother who has been regularly elected to that office, and duly installed as such.

2. The Past Masters of a Lodge are those brethren, being members of the Lodge, who have "passed the chair." All brethren who have held the office of Worshipful Master for twelve months are Past Masters, and are entitled to rank as such. It is not necessary that they should have held the office of W. M. in the Lodge of which they are members. The rank is a personal matter, belonging to the individuals themselves, and they carry it with them, wherever they go. In 1875, the Grand Lodge of Canada decided that a member of a Lodge, who has been a Master of another Lodge, and properly returned, is entitled to his rank according to seniority, both in Grand Lodge, and in the Lodge with which he is affiliated. A Past Master from a foreign jurisdiction, who affiliates with a Lodge in this jurisdiction, is equally entitled to his rank.

3. Past Masters should be announced as hailing from the Lodge in which they are affiliated members. It is a matter of no consequence where they obtained their rank as Past Masters, or in what Lodge they held the office of W. M.

4. A Past Master, who is a member of two Lodges, in only one of which he actually held the position of W. M., has the right to be announced as a Past Master of the other Lodge.

5. When a brother, who is a member of two Lodges, attends either of them, he should not be announced as hailing from the other Lodge. He could not be a visitor to his own Lodge. Nor is it necessary that he should be announced as from the other Lodge, in order to take his rank as a Past Master. He is entitled to place among the Past Masters of that Lodge, just the same as if he had filled the chair in it. Any member of a Lodge can, of course, claim and exercise all a member's privileges.

6. The seniority of Past Masters among themselves, is determined by the dates at which they respectively became Past Masters. The oldest takes precedence, except in cases where the Constitution provides

otherwise, such as the preference given to the Immediate Past Master, to take the chair, in the absence of the Master. A Past Master, in affiliating, takes rank as to seniority in the Lodge of which he becomes a member, (by affiliation) from the date at which he became a Past Master, and not from the date of his affiliation.

7. We doubt if any brother can be compelled to take his dimit, but if these brethren have violated the promises, which were made in order to obtain a recommendation which they would not otherwise have obtained, we think that charges of un-Masonic conduct could be preferred against them, and they suspended, if proved guilty.

We presume that the special duties which Past Masters have to perform in this Lodge are regulated entirely by the By-laws of the Lodge. These By-laws can be altered, if found necessary, by the Lodge. They could be made to provide that only those Past Masters who had actually held the office of W. M. in that Lodge, should be members of the permanent committee.

Masonic Benefit Association,
Kingston.

At the last regular monthly meeting of this Association, Bro. George W. Andrus was elected Secretary. The Association was reported in a prosperous condition. It was decided to extend the benefits of the Association to a new class of insurers, and the following circular has been issued:—

"The Directors contemplate opening a new class, to be known as class B, provided a sufficient number of the brethren join it. The objects of this class will be to do away with the system of death calls by paying an annual fee at the commencement of each fiscal year; also to ensure to each member's family on this class the sum of \$500—no more, no less.

Annual fee of member under 25 yrs..	\$ 5 00
" " " 30 " "	6 00
" " " 35 " "	7 00
" " " 40 " "	8 00
" " " 45 " "	9 50
" " " 50 " "	11 00
" " " 55 " "	12 50
" " " 60 " "	15 00

Also, on joining, a fee of, say \$4, for preliminary expenses. The Directors are of opinion that the number of subscribers to this class should be 500, and that on any death, applications will be received to fill up the vacancy. But with a view of introducing it the Directors will open the class as soon as 250 members have announced their