

This disposition to curtail the powers of the G. M., as also to limit the powers of a Worshipful Master, is manifesting itself in more than one jurisdiction and cannot be too strongly combatted; for once let these officers be divested of their controlling powers—then good bye peace and harmony. Grand Masters, however, require watching or they would ruthlessly destroy their own powers. The G. M. of Nevada decides “that moving the previous question on a Masonic Lodge is admissible,” and Bro. Wilber says:—

“Wonderful to relate, this decision was either overlooked both by the Committee on Jurisprudence and the Grand Lodge, or silently assented to by them. We think there is no principle in Masonry more firmly established than that relating to the power of the Worshipful Master to suspend or permit debate on a question. Such a decision must necessarily interfere with the prerogatives of Worshipful Master.”

Nova Scotia for 1874 is received. The D. D. G. M.'s for this year are complimented on their work and a panegyric is bestowed on Bro. Crowe for his remarks on advancement to office.

In reviewing Ohio, he comments on suspension for non-payment of dues, and his opinions are so exactly in accord with our own that we quote them entire:—

“Their system of expulsion for non-payment of dues works great injustice in many individual instances; and the Grand Master says that ‘Many men have been declared expelled by the W. M. without receiving any notice of their suspension, and others, without being cited to shew cause why they should not be expelled.’ He ascribes the abuses which have arisen under their system, to the great negligence of many Lodges, and recommends its repeal, except in willful contumacy. He thinks indefinite suspension a sufficient punishment for simple neglect to pay dues.

“The question may be asked, does the negative fact, non-payment of dues, constitute a Masonic offence? The practice in most jurisdictions is founded on the affirmative of this question; and yet the negative seems to us more sound and Masonic. The failure to pay dues, even considered as a dereliction of duty amounting to an offence, is certainly very venial indeed compared with many practices widely prevalent, and which rarely, if ever, become matters of Masonic discipline. We fear brethren are sometimes expelled for non-payment of dues, more from ill-will towards the delinquent, than from genuine love of the brotherhood or respect for the principles of Masonry.

“In this connection it should not be forgotten that the regular payment of stated annual dues, is really an innovation on Ancient Craft Masonry; the practice being unknown to our ancient brethren; and whenever any jurisdiction so far forgets this fact, as to make non-payment of dues on a par