

members of some Lodge, duly returned to Grand Lodge as P. M.'s and residents of the Districts for which they are respectively appointed. None others are qualified."

Am I to understand that the actual W. M. of a Lodge, though a P. M., is not eligible for the office of D.D.G.M.? I judge this to be Bro. Robertson's opinion from his subsequent remarks on the same subject regarding Quebec, but would like to have his views definitely expressed?

A.—The actual Master of a Lodge who is also a Past Master is eligible for election as D. D. G. M., under the present Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Canada. In Quebec it is not so, and we think the Quebec rule is a good one; and we would be glad to see it adopted by the Grand Lodge of Canada.

An Important Circular.

The following circular has been issued by R. E. Comp. John Ross Robertson, Grand Supt. of Toronto District, and is of general interest to the Craft, but the R. E. Comp. should remember that some jurisdictions on the other side do not issue diplomas. A Companion may purchase one and get it certified to by the High Priest and Secretary of the Chapter to which he belongs, but the vast majority in such jurisdictions have no certificates:

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF CANADA.

Office of Grand Superintendent, Toronto Dis't,

TORONTO, 1st December, 1881.

Dear Sir and Excellent Companion:—

I have to direct the attention of members of Chapters to the following extract from the address of the M.E. Companion, Daniel Spry, G.Z., in 1880, delivered at the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter in the city of Guelph, and the decision of the Grand Chapter thereon.

ROYAL ARCH CLOTHING AND MASONIC FESTIVALS AND FUNERALS.

"Some discussion has lately taken place in the Masonic Press regarding the proper Masonic clothing to be worn at the funeral of a deceased brother. * * * There is no funeral ceremony in connection with Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction, and although the Constitution permits the attendance at funerals of Royal Arch Masons properly clothed as such, it would be much better if all Free Masons would, on such

occasions, appear in the more simple and appropriate clothing usually worn by Master Masons."—See p. 21, 22, Proceedings of 1880.

The committee on the address of the Grand First Principal reported that they were "fully in accord with the views of the M.E. the Grand Z., * * * believing that the simple costume worn on such occasions by Master Masons is more appropriate than any other, and that a more elaborate display is unnecessary and should be avoided."—See p. 47, Proceedings 1880.

As it is desirable that all decisions of the Grand Chapter should be obeyed, you will direct your members to discontinue wearing Royal Arch clothing at Masonic funerals in future unless the Chapter has been specially convened to take part in the ceremony. When a Chapter has appeared as such at a Masonic funeral, the Ex. Z. should immediately report to the Grand Superintendent as provided for in clause cxii. of the Constitution of the Grand Chapter, 1881, which states that "no public procession or festival shall be allowed without a dispensation, except to attend Masonic funerals, the urgency of which may not admit of the delay necessary for procuring a dispensation, and which shall immediately be reported to the Grand Superintendent of the District."

I have noticed Masons present at Lodge meetings and at Craft Festivals, wearing Royal Arch Regalia. This is clearly a violation of the Constitution, and should be discontinued in this District, as clause cxiii. of the Constitution states that "if any Chapter or Companion shall attend any public procession (except a funeral) or festival, in Royal Arch clothing, without a dispensation, such Chapter or Companion shall be suspended, * * * and such Companion shall be rendered incapable of ever after being an officer of a Chapter."

You will note that the requirement of the constitution is most explicit, and I respectfully desire that you will see that it is obeyed.

SPECIAL DISPENSATIONS.

As during this month Chapters will be called upon to elect their officers for the ensuing Masonic year, I beg to remind you that at the Convocation of Grand Chapter held at Guelph 1880 (See p. 15, Proceedings 1880), the Grand Z. in his address directed the attention of Grand Chapter to the "numerous applications received for dispensations, to permit Companions to be installed as Principals without having previously served in the other offices required by the Constitution." That the Grand Z., "believing the opinion of the Grand Chapter to be unfavorable to the extreme use of this prerogative, declined to grant several of those applications," although in a few very urgent cases they were issued. The committee, in their report on the address