

ings, pages 461 *et seq*). I would be much pleased to have this question carefully re-considered, as it involves a point of the greatest importance.

Suspension may be for a definite or for an indefinite period. If for a definite period, the party suspended, at the expiration of the time mentioned, at once assumes his former position and standing in his lodge and with the craft generally, and no action of the lodge is either requisite or necessary, but, if the suspension is for an indefinite period, then the procedure is entirely different. A sentence of indefinite suspension conveys to my mind the idea that, although the Grand Lodge may remove the suspension in so far as the relationship of the party to the general craft is concerned, it would neither be wise nor prudent for the Grand Lodge to compel a lodge to receive back as a member one who a majority of the lodge declined to receive. There are not many lodges that would receive back a member after Grand Lodge had removed the suspension; but I am strongly of the opinion that no lodge should be compelled to receive back a brother who had been indefinitely suspended, unless by ballot a majority of the members declared their assent to his return. I leave the matter, however, in your hands, and again request for it your careful consideration.

NEW JERSEY.

I received a communication from the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, informing me that a person of doubtful character had applied to one of their subordinate Lodges for initiation, and had been rejected, and that he had recently returned to that State a Master Mason and member of one of our Canadian Lodges. On enquiry, I ascertained that the party alluded to had resided for one year within the jurisdiction of the Lodge which had received him, and that they had not considered it necessary to make enquiries as to character at his former place of residence in New Jersey. I may mention that the subsequent conduct of this person has led to charges being made against him. From this, and other incidents of a similar nature which have come to my knowledge, I would earnestly exhort the Masters and officers of Lodges to be more prudent and careful in their enquiries as to the character of those who seek admission to our Order, and it has occurred to me that perhaps it would be prudent to add a clause to the usual petition, to the effect that the applicant had not been rejected by any other Lodge within the last twelve months—the object of this addition would be, that if it was afterwards ascertained that the statement was untrue the party might be expelled.

NEW LODGES.

During the past year I have granted dispensations, or the formation of nineteen new Lodges, a list of which I here append for your information. I declined granting one for a new Lodge at Fort Erie, as I did not consider that a Lodge was required in that particular locality, and for a similar reason I also refused a dispensation for an additional Lodge at Sarnia—the petitioners may apply to Grand Lodge for warrants, and I have no doubt that the applications will receive consideration.

LIST OF LODGES GRANTED DISPENSATIONS SINCE MEETING OF GRAND LODGE
IN JULY, 1873.

Dispensation date.	Name of Lodge.	Where Held.	Worshipful Master Elect.
1873.			
July 21.....	St. David's.....	St. Thomas.....	Josiah Corlis.
October 16.....	Blyth.....	Blyth.....	William Wilson.
November 22.....	Minerva.....	Victoria.....	Robert King.
December 26.....	Humber.....	Weston.....	Frank W. Forbes.
December 26.....	Durham.....	Durham.....	James H. Hunter.
1874.			
January 18.....	Arkona.....	Arkona.....	John Dallas
January 18.....	Grafton.....	Grafton.....	Francis Drake
January 31.....	Morning Star.....	Smith's Hill.....	John Varcoe.
February 14.....	Enterprise.....	Beachburgh.....	George Forbes
February 16.....	Blackwood.....	Woodbridge.....	Thomas F. Blackwood.
February 17.....	Phyx.....	Wallaceburg.....	Harvey Morris.
February 27.....	Climent.....	Lakefield.....	Robert Kincald.
February 28.....	Hiram.....	Cheapside.....	Jesse V. Hoover.
March 9.....	Blair.....	Palmerston.....	Hugh Hyndman.
April 10.....	Clifford.....	Clifford.....	Kenneth McL. Walton.
April 11.....	Doric.....	Toronto.....	Richard P. Stephens.
April 22.....	The Hiram.....	Dundas.....	Nathaniel Greening.
June 4.....	Chesterville.....	Chesterville.....	William Wilson French.
June 17.....	Willmot.....	Baden, Ont.....	John Moran

INSURANCE.

I regret to announce that the rooms, warrants, jewels, and furniture of a Lodge No. 214, at Ailsa Craig, and Bernard Lodge, No. 225, at Listowel, and Aylmer Lodge No.