

sions of like import might be cited from the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in Ontario.

Our correspondent is doubtless aware that in all jurisdictions, membership has not been made imperative upon initiation.

(2.) On page 218 of Robertson's "Digest of Masonic Jurisprudence" (1881), it is declared that "The rights of a member of a Lodge are: 1st, To attend his Lodge and take part in its proceedings; 2nd, To vote upon all questions brought before the Lodge; 3rd, To cast his ballot for or against all candidates for admission without giving any reason therefor," &c.

In appendix to the Constitution, page 4, it is declared that "In all cases, and under all circumstances, the Lodge must be opened in the First Degree, and in this degree all the ordinary business of the Lodge is to be transacted."

On page 253 of "Robertson's Digest," it is affirmed that "Every member of a Lodge present must vote on all questions submitted to the Lodge, unless excused by the unanimous consent of the rest of the members present. The Master may require any member to vote or to leave the room."

From the foregoing it therefore appears that under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Canada, in Ontario, an Entered Apprentice is a member of the Lodge in which he has been initiated,—that he is duly liable for Lodge dues,—and that he is entitled to vote on all questions requiring to be voted upon in the First Degree.

Although in what precedes we have sought explicitly to answer the important questions put to us,—we are not quite certain that we know the full import of what is intended by the interrogations,—or whether we have wholly removed all the difficulties which present themselves *in re* to the mind of our brother.

The word "only" in the first question is peculiarly significant, and the word "vote" in the second may be intended by our correspondent to mean "open vote," or "vote by ballot,"—or both. He may, moreover, be prepared to concede the membership of an E. A. and question his right to "vote by ballot" on an application for initiation, which "ballot" if favorable and no objection is afterwards raised, entitles the candidate to "the three degrees,"—and that hence, by thus voting, an E. A. would be voting to confer degrees which he himself had not yet received, and may never receive.

If this is one of the difficulties involved therein, our brother will clearly see that he is virtually raising the very important question whether (as in most of the United States Jurisdictions) "the ordinary business of the Lodge" should be transacted in the third degree, instead of in the first degree as here in Canada and elsewhere.

Individual brethren may have their preferences, but it is, of course, the prerogative of Grand Lodge to decide whether the welfare of the Craft demands any change in our present procedure, regarding this important matter.