

For THE CRAFTSMAN.]

SUNDRY AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

BY R. W. BRO. HENRY ROBERTSON, DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, G. L. OF CANADA.

Another amendment which ought to be made, relates to the office of District Deputy Grand Master. At present, the Constitution does not prohibit the actual Master of a lodge from being elected District Deputy Grand Master. This proposed amendment would read as follows:—

“But no brother can be elected a District Deputy Grand Master, while holding the office of Master of a lodge; nor can a brother be elected Master of a lodge, while holding the office of District Deputy Grand Master.”

Or, the last clause might be stated thus:—

“And if a District Deputy Grand Master is elected, and accepts the office of Master of a lodge, he thereby forfeits his office of District Deputy Grand Master.”

In the Province of Quebec, a Past Master who is, at the time of election, also a Worshipful Master, is not eligible for election as District Deputy Grand Master. A resolution was moved in the Grand Lodge of Canada to this effect in 1873, but it failed to carry. We do not know why it failed, as we think that such a provision would be only prudent. The two offices are incompatible with each other, and should not be held by the same party at the same time.

PERMANENT PLACE OF MEETING.

The Constitution should also provide that the Grand Lodge should meet annually in the City of Toronto.

INITIATION FEE.

The minimum fee for initiation, should be raised from twenty dollars to thirty dollars.

QUORUM.

It should be provided, that “at all

meetings of a lodge, whether Regular or Emergent, seven members shall form a quorum, and no business shall be transacted at any meeting, unless seven members of the lodge are present.” At present, it is possible for a Past Master, with six visitors, to open lodge, ballot for candidates, initiate, and confer degrees, and do any other lodge business. It will not be seriously argued that this is right. It is plain that the number required to open lodge, and to do lodge business, should be of members of that particular lodge. The only argument against this amendment, would seem to be that it might interfere with some weak lodges, who sometimes have to depend on the presence of visitors, in order to be able to open. If there are any such lodges, it is to be hoped that they are very few.

MEETINGS.

The regular hours of meeting, as well as the days, should be specified in the by-laws.

Collingwood, March, 1885.

A NOBLE GIFT.

R. W. Bro. John Ross Robertson has again exhibited his love for the craft, by donating one thousand dollars for the purpose of building a wing to the Children's Island Home. No Mason in Canada has displayed the same liberality towards the fraternity as the editor of the *Toronto Telegram*, Past Grand Senior Warden Robertson.

THE so-called Mark Lodges in Montreal are still doing a little work there; yet the Grand Z. of the Grand Chapter of Canada has not issued his edict of non-intercourse with England, although Grand Chapter distinctly requested him to do so. The Grand Chapter will know how to act in July.