

member to propose an amendment thereto, which amendment takes precedence of the original motion, that is to say, it must be considered and adopted or rejected, before the question can be put on the original motion. If the amendment be lost, then the question must be put on the original motion. If the amendment be adopted, the question will be on the original motion as so amended; and then, if this question be lost, the motion falls to the ground. The adoption of the amendment brings an entirely new motion, more or less altered from the original one, before the Lodge, and the original motion disappears and is no more heard of. The not unusual mistake of some presiding officers, in supposing that the adoption of an amendment precludes the necessity of putting the question on the original motion, must be carefully avoided. The adoption of an amendment is so far from adopting the motion which it amends, that it actually destroys it, and brings a new motion before the body.

An amendment can only be made in one of these three ways, namely: by striking out certain words; by adding or inserting certain words; or, lastly, by striking out certain words and inserting others.

1. *Striking out certain words.* A proposition may be amended by striking out a part of it, but the part so stricken out should not by its omission affect the coherence or grammatical congruity of the remainder of the sentence from which it is to be omitted. The sentence left should present a correct grammatical construction. This is apparently a small matter, but the neglect of its observance frequently leads to awkward phraseology, which requires further amendments to correct it.

If an amendment to strike out certain words be rejected, no subsequent amendment can be offered to strike out the same words, or any part of them; but it may be again moved to strike out the same words or any part of them, with other words, provided the new proposition substantially differs in meaning and effect from the one previously rejected. It is an essential rule that the new propositions shall differ substantially from the one previously rejected, because, as it may be stated once for all, it is a well-settled principle of parliamentary law, that no question can again be proposed during the same session (which, in reference to the business of a Lodge, is equivalent to the same communication) upon which the house has already expressed its judgment. And this is a necessary rule "to avoid contrary decisions, to prevent surprise, and to afford a proper opportunity for determining questions as they severally arise."

In accordance with this principle, if the motion to strike out certain words prevails, no subsequent motion can be entertained to insert the same words or any part of them in the same place. But a motion may be entertained to insert them or any part of them in another place, or to insert them or any part of them with other words in the same place, provided that the addition of the new words constitutes a substantially different proposition.

The usage in the British parliament, in putting the question on striking out words, is not "Shall the words be stricken out," but "Shall they stand as part of the motion." This custom is founded on certain historical and political reasons, which do not affect this country; and hence, in American legislative assemblies, the question is a direct one on striking out, which usage uniformly prevails.

2. *Inserting certain words.* The rules here are the same as those applicable to striking out. If an amendment to insert certain words be re-