

New Brunswick.

on the same subject. Indeed, it may be a very vexatious question what scope a By-Law sanctioned by this Office, thus limiting the Constitutional provision, would properly have. To prevent all misunderstanding, I have *advised* Lodges that it is quite unnecessary to repeat as matter of By-Law provisions already made obligatory by the Constitution; and I have *decided* that, when Lodges do thus import into By-Laws Sections of the Constitution, they must follow the text of the latter, and not in any way alter or abridge it, or so partially quote it as to lead to misunderstandings or confusion.

It has been quite customary for Lodges to insert in their By-Laws, sections disqualifying brethren from the enjoyment of certain Masonic rights for non-payment of dues. Pending the opinion of Grand Lodge I have disallowed such By-Laws, mainly for two reasons: First, because I hold that so long as a member is allowed to enjoy his membership and is retained on the roll as in good standing in the Craft, and is under no charge for neglect to pay his dues, he cannot be suddenly deprived of the rights attaching to such standing in the Lodge; and secondly, a member who is alleged to be in arrear to his Lodge for his dues, is entitled to the same notice, trial and adjudication of his Brethren as a member who has in any other respect failed to perform his duty to the Craft, whether the delinquency be created by the provision of the Constitution or under the operation of a By-Law of the Lodge;—and has, over this, a right of appeal to Grand Lodge. But the proposed By-Law would sweep away these inalienable masonic rights, or permit him to pursue them after the disability or punishment has been endured, and when errors in fact or form have become irremediable.

An Appeal has been made against the action of Miramichi Lodge, which was laid before the Board of General Purposes, and by them disposed of. I refer you to the Report of the Board for the final decision made in the subject.

WARRANTS.

Pursuant to the action of Grand Lodge at its last Communication, a Warrant issued in due form, for the erection of Lebanon Lodge, No. 28, and on the twenty-eighth day of November last, in company with the V. W. Grand Secretary, and other members of Grand Lodge, I proceeded to Sackville and Consecrated the Lodge in due and ancient form. I was led to believe from observation, that this Lodge will work worthy of the Craft, and that our brethren at Sackville rightly appreciate the duty and dignity of their Masonic position. The hospitality of the Brethren on the occasion to myself and my associates was most frank and bounteous.

Application having been made for the erection of a Lodge at St. Martins, in the County of Saint John, I granted a Warrant of Dispensation which was handed to Brother M. N. Powers, P. M.

VISITATIONS.

The Committee of Masters of Lodges, appointed at the last Communication of Grand Lodge, to arrange for a more convenient season for Installing Services in the City of St. John, having taken the necessary steps to that end, and it is with the most pleasing recollections that I refer to my official visitation, during the earlier part of the Masonic Year, to the Lodges in the City of St. John, and to the services of Installation as then conducted. The Lodge Room was crowded to excess on each occasion—Brethren appeared in full force—laudable emulation was provoked, and a season of great pleasure afforded. The Worshipful Masters and Officers, elected and appointed, seemed masons well qualified to lead their respective Lodges forward, and the whole gave evidence of great prosperity.

I had the pleasure of visiting and installing the officers of Zion Lodge, on the 24th day of January last, and of visiting Carleton Union Lodge, and Solomon's Lodge of Fredericton; and, in common with the Brethren of Grand Lodge who accompanied me, was very deeply impressed with the evidences of stability and prosperity which I saw on each occasion, and with the very generous and cordial greeting offered me by the Brethren.

You will allow me, also, to acknowledge the very fraternal and hospitable reception tendered to me by the officers and members of the Civil Service Lodge of Canada, on my recent visit to Ottawa, and which I accepted all the more readily as another token of the catholicity of that fellowship which is a distinguishing characteristic of true Masonry. And I am also very much indebted to M. W. Bro. ALEX. A. STEVENSON, P. G. M. of the Grand Lodge of Canada, not only for great personal kindnesses and courtesies while in the City of Montreal, but also for his tender to me of a public reception by the Masons of Montreal as your representative, which I was not able to accept.