

of the liquor traffic. The report of the committee on this subject closed as follows :—

“ What we have shown gives the drift of Masonic thought and furnishes us with ample precedent. This report is long. The former decisions of the Grand Lodge on this subject needed to be met fully and seemed to require this report. We have no comment of our own to offer further than to say we concur with the manifest judgment of this day and civilization that saloon-keeping is unmasonic—‘an offence against Masonry.’ ”

The committee’s decision on the second question was as follows :—

“ If our conclusions, as expressed in our report on saloon-keeping, are correct—that permission of State law is no moral license, to a Mason—then this question is answered. So we say :

“ Yes. All gaming, betting or gambling, by whatever name called, and whether permitted by State law or not, is unmasonic. A Mason that does not work shan’t eat. He must not eat any man’s bread for naught. He who wins at chance gets something for nothing which Masonry forbids.”

On motion, when Grand Lodge was in session, these reports were adopted, as was also the following additional section to the constitution :—

Surbordinate lodges may not hereafter initiate or admit to membership saloon-keepers. But any member of a surbordinate lodge heretofore licensed to keep a saloon, may be permitted to continue till the expiration of his present license.”

This clause was made prohibitory, and not permissive, as it reads, by a ruling of Grand Master Evans :—

“ It having come to my knowledge that some of the brethren are in doubt as to the exact meaning of the law recently adopted by the Grand Lodge, which reads as follows : ‘ Subordinate lodges may not hereafter initiate or admit to membership saloon-keepers, but any member of a surbordinate lodge heretofore licensed to keep a saloon may be permitted to continue till the expiration of his present license ; ’ and, conceiving it to be my duty to settle the matter by official decision, I have carefully examined the law in question, both in letter and spirit, and have no hesitation in deciding that the words ‘ may not hereafter initiate or admit,’ etc., mean *shall not* hereafter initiate, etc.”

## THE GOOD OLD TIMES.

Fun in the Lodge, in the year 1762, gave considerable trouble, and some sport to the Grand Lodge of the “Ancients.” On December 22nd, 1762, Bro. Davidson, of Lodge No. 21, complained against Bro. Richard Gough, Pursuivant of the Grand Lodge, charging him with taking a hat and some drinking glasses out of Lodge No. 21 in a felonious manner. Upon examination it appeared that some brother, in a jocular manner, had put the glasses into Brother Gough’s pocket without his knowledge, and that someone, having taken his hat, he also took another hat instead of his own. The officers of a number of Lodges having given Bro. Gough an excellent character, it was unanimously agreed “that Bro. Gough was innocent of the charge, and that the hat now in the possession of Bro. Davidson shall be immediately delivered to Bro. Gough, which hat Bro. Gough shall keep until his own shall be returned to him.” It required a Grand Lodge of Emergency to settle this weighty practical joke.—*Keystone.*

## SUBLIME DEGREE OF A MASTER MASON.

Replying to a query, why the third degree is commonly alluded to as the “Sublime Degree of a Master Mason,” the *Freemason’s Repository*, Providence, R. I., says :—Dr. Mackey states that the descriptive word Sublime is well applied to the degree of Master Mason, as referring to the exalted lessons that it teaches of God and of a future life. He admits, however, that the term is of modern use. It is not found in any of the rituals of the last century. Hutchinson, Smith, and Preston do not use it. Hutchinson speaks of “the most sacred and solemn order,” and of the “exalted” but not “sublime degree.” Since the introduction of the Royal Arch degree, the word Sublime has been used, and the word Exalted appropriated to the Arch. In the Constitutions, Dublin, 1769, the Master’s degree is called “most respectable,” and the term “high and honorable” also applied to it. In an eighteenth century ritual now before us, the word “Perfect” is used as describing the Master’s Degree. Undoubtedly the term Sublime was not applied to this degree until a comparatively recent date ; it has since been adopted in the lectures and work both in this country and in England,