

depositing the sprig in the grave of a deceased brother the living Mason bears witness to his faith in the immortality of the human soul, the power of the Creator, and man's dependency upon his divine will. So, too, does this little green sprig guide the Mason into a new birth. It takes him from the darkness of ignorance into the light of a pure life, and when mortal cares beset our path it whispers sweet consolation to us, and tells us of the glories of another world. Yes, the green sprig from a Masonic standpoint is very precious. It never leaves us. In joy or sorrow, it is at our side and in our hearts. It sings songs of pleasure in the haunts of grief, and when man has served his stewardship on earth, it returns with him to the dust, to share in the joys that are only found at the home of our Creator.—*Liberal Freemason.*

#### DISPENSATION.

Dispensation means properly a permission to dispense with the normal regulations of any institution or body, politic, social, or religious. In Freemasonry the power of dispensation is generally vested by the Book of Constitutions in the Grand Master, in some specified cases in the Provincial Grand Master alternately, and also in other specified cases in the District Grand Master. The Grand Master alone can grant a dispensation, for non-residence of Provincial Grand Officers, for a brother to be Master of two lodges at the same time, and as is generally understood to initiate more than five brethren in one night. The Provincial Grand Master can also, as well as the Grand Master, grant a dispensation for the Master of a lodge to continue more than two years in succession (which, however, is properly very seldom done), to initiate a minor, to allow the master of a tavern to hold office, to admit a Tyler or serving brother, for attendance on a Masonic funeral or other public processions, to wear clothing, etc., at any ball, theatre, assembly, or meeting, or at any place of public resort. Dis-

trict Grand Masters may grant provisional warrants or dispensations for the formation of new lodges. It was formerly the practice that lodges in England could be holden under dispensation previous to constitution under warrant, but we doubt the legality of any such procedure, according to a strict construction of the English Book of Constitutions, which reserves this power of dispensation to lodges under District Grand Masters alone, and it is not now done, we understand. For the removal of one lodge to another town the permission of the Prov. G. M. and concurrence of Grand Master are requisite, and no lodge can be moved from one province to another without joint consent of Prov. G. M. and Grand Master.—*Kenning's Cyclop. of Freemasonry.*

Following is an extract from a recent decision by R. E. Sir Knight, C. B. Bigelow, G. Com. of Michigan:—

“What is the proper course to pursue when the candidate says that he has an objection against participating in the usual manner? It seems that there should be some way to avoid the difficulty. \* \* \*

“My answer was: Substitute pure water, and may God bless and keep him steadfast in the faithful performance of his resolution, and forbid that we should insist on his conforming to any rite or ceremony that would cause him to become a victim of the greatest curse that afflicts mankind.”

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

The following subscriptions have been received since our last issue, and we shall be obliged if our brethren will favor us with notice of any omissions that may occur:

Jas. McFadden, \$1.00; J. C. Lander, \$2.75; Frank Hillock, \$1.00; Geo. C. McGregor, \$1.00; Jas. Bond, \$1.00; W. B. Kellett, \$1.00; A. H. Watson, \$1.00; San Juan Lodge, \$1.50; A. C. Crosby, \$1.00; John H. McIntyre, \$1.00; Wm. Eustice, \$1.00; Arch. McFarlane, \$1.00; Joseph Hockin, \$1.00; Mungo McFarlin, \$1.00; Peter Barry, \$1.00; Mr. Joy, \$1.00; Jas. Reeve, \$2.50; H. Walken, \$1.00; Mr. Howard, \$1.50; V. Knight, \$1.00; Geo. Heigh, \$1.00; J. J. Buckley, \$1.00.