

The Canadian Craftsman.

Port Hope, May 15, 1886.

PETITIONS FOR AFFILIATION.

The Grand Master of Iowa gives this ruling in regard to the rejection of a M. M. in good standing, who wished to affiliate with a lodge, but was rejected. The question asked, was "How often can he petition?" "Can he petition again the night of rejection," and "Can he keep one constantly before the lodge?"

"A brother petitioning for membership in a lodge, has a right to present his petition as often as the lodge will receive it. But it seems almost a farce to receive such a petition on the night of a rejection, as all rejections are presumed to be for valid reasons, and no lodge has a right to presume otherwise, or inquire into the reasons for such rejection. The right to cast the black-ball is absolute; and no brother may legally inform others that he has done so, nor have others the right to assume that he has, or impugn his motives in so doing. He is the sole arbiter of the question, restrained only by that vow, which answering his expressed desire, gave to him further light. It may be written as an unfailing rule for you, and every Master, that when the question is presented or considered in a lodge, 'Was the rejection of the applicant right?' then the lodge is wrong. And the Master who permits it is deserving of censure, if not of public discipline. Now, I believe that the law should be that every resident non-affiliate in good standing in any local jurisdiction, should have the absolute right of membership in any lodge therein. But such is not the law, and I give it to you as it is. And the law, whether agreeable or not, should be observed. I have said this much, because I see by your letter that your lodge is in a wrangle over this ques-

tion. To others I have said, 'When there is a rejection of an applicant, treat it for the present as conclusive, and pass the question without note or comment.'"

EDITORIAL ITEMS.

THE outlook for Quebec is encouraging, and the American Grand Lodges must promptly protest against English interference in the Masonic affairs of this continent.—*Corner Stone.*

By resolutions passed at the last session of the Grand Lodge of Maine, any one hailing from the Province of Quebec, and claiming to be a Mason, shall not be recognized as such, unless he hails from a lodge under the obedience of the Grand Lodge of that Province.

THE Grand Lodge of Virginia has decided "that a fellow-craft, made such in a lawful lodge after he had lost his left arm, could not be allowed to take the Master's degree—if for no other reason, because nobody could rightfully confer it."

THE Order of Grand Cross, etc., has been conferred on M. W. Bro. Daniel Spry, of Canada, by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales; an honor well deserved. We tender congratulations to our distinguished Grand Representative of Kentucky near the Canadian Grand Lodge.—*Masonic Home Journal.*

WE are required to give instruction to younger brethren, inexperienced in their work, that the craft may not suffer for want of skill and experience in their judgment; but that, through our own skill and experience, they may learn the requirements of the art, to possess that knowledge whereby our interests become strengthened, and the bonds of mutual brotherhood reciprocated in its duties, as justly due to each other.