

"18. Two Lodges in different towns, have no power by agreement to make their jurisdictions concurrent."

The Report on Foreign Correspondence is from the pen of Bro. Geo. D. Wilbur, and bears evidence of great ability and earnest, close application.

Commenting on the decision of the G.M. of Arkansas, that neither a G. M., a D. G. M. nor a D. D. G. M. should accept the office of W. M., he says:—

"With our understanding of the functions and powers of the Grand Master, he is *ex-officio* Worshipful Master *pro tem*, of every Lodge which he visits within his jurisdiction; and to elect him Worshipful Master of a subordinate Lodge would be simply an act of supererogation; and in the absence of the Grand Master, the same would be true of his Deputy and of his District Deputies in their respective districts; although in the case of the District Deputies there would seem to be no impropriety in their being elected Worshipful Masters of their respective Lodges."

In refutation of the opinion expressed by the Grand Lodge of Arkansas in opposition to the decision of its G. Master, that a brother suspended for non payment of dues stands in the same position as a brother suspended for any other cause, he says:—

"If this be true why use the term suspension, which implies Masonic non-intercourse, for non-affiliation, which is quite a different matter? why say suspension, when merely exclusion from Lodge privileges is meant? Experienced Masons may not be misled by the ambiguity of the word suspension, but young Masons are quite likely to be thus led astray. Some jurisdictions use the term "exclusion from membership"; others "striking from the roll" when a brother is debarred by a Lodge from its privileges, because of his failure to pay his Lodge-dues, thus recognizing the great difference there is between suspension and simply non-affiliation."

Under Montana, speaking of the attempt to divest the G. M. of his prerogatives, he very properly remarks:—

"We would suggest in this connection, that it is not within the power of any Grand Lodge to infringe upon the prerogatives of the Grand Master, and that he has no right to permit such infringement, if attempted. Had Grand Master Star been fully imbued with sound views as to the rights, powers, responsibilities, and duties of his high station, he could hardly have refrained from expressing his undoubted prerogatives, in the cases which he cites. As elsewhere stated, we conceive the Grand Master's relations to be directly with the Craft, and empowered to decide all matters demanding immediate attention as they may arise; not as the Grand Lodge *ad interim*, or as its agent, but as Grand Master of Masons of his jurisdiction."

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