

ry to appoint a person specially to superintend the work, but permission should only be granted where the persons asking it are well skilled masons.

QUESTION.—Can a Lodge of Instruction admit masons (strangers) on proof, or must they be vouched for?

ANSWER.—Masons may be admitted on proof, as in the case of ordinary lodge meetings.

QUESTION.—Can a lodge refuse to give a brother his dimit, when he has paid all dues owing by him, and there is no charge of any kind against him?

ANSWER.—The brother can, under such circumstances, demand his dimit, and a refusal to comply with the demand would be an act of very great discourtesy. Should the lodge refuse, however, the proper course for the brother would be to tender his resignation, after which the lodge cannot collect dues from him. He may of course join another lodge if he desires to do so, whether he obtains his dimit or not.

THE RITES OF FREEMASONRY.

Bro. Dr. Mackey defines "Rite" as a modification of Freemasonry, in which, the three antient degrees and their essentials being preserved, there are variations in the ceremonies, and number and names of the additional degrees. A Masonic Rite is, therefore, in accordance with the general signification of the word, the method, order, and rules observed in the performance and government of the Masonic system.

Pure Antient Freemasonry consists of but three degrees, but the ingenuity of some, vanity of others, and that morbid craving for distinction, so prevalent on the Continent during the last century, have added to these an infinite number of high degrees, and of ceremonies unknown to the original institution. Some of these lived only with their authors; others have had a permanent existence. A Master Mason is, however, acknowledged as such in all countries, and can visit the Symbolic Lodges of any Rite. The following are the more generally practised at the present time:—

The English, (York.)

The Antient and Accepted, (Scotch.)

The French, (Modern.)

The Swedish.

The Three Globes, (Berlin.)

Of the English system, which is adopted by some four-fifths of the Freemasons of the world, little need be said. The act of union between the two Grand Lodges of England in 1813 declares that pure antient Masonry consists of three degrees, and no more, viz., those of the E. A. the F. C., and the M. M., including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch. This latter (the R. A.) is not, however, acknowledged as part of *Antient* Freemasonry in any other country. The degree was invented by the self-styled "Antient Masons" in the year 1770, and by them its recognition was successfully insisted on at the union. Since