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A CURIOUS QUESTION.

It is generally supposed that, according to the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Canada, any brother suspended or expelled for unmasonic conduct by his lodge or Grand Lodge, stands *ipso facto* suspended or expelled, as the case may be, from Capitular Masonry during such term of suspension or expulsion, by his lodge or Grand Lodge. Now, as a matter of fact, such is not the case. The Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Canada, page 16, clause XVI., reads as follows:—

“When the Grand Lodge or any other competent Masonic authority shall, for any unmasonic conduct, suspend or expel any brother, who is a Royal Arch Mason, such companion shall be suspended or expelled from his Arch Masonic functions for the period, whilst such craft suspension or expulsion remains in force.”

This clause clearly leaves the gate open. In order to suspend or expel a companion, who has been suspended or expelled in Symbolic Masonry, from his Arch Masonic functions, it is, evidently necessary that his Chapter shall take some action upon the same, for the clause distinctly states he “*shall be suspended or expelled*,” not that, *ipso facto*, “*he is*” suspended or expelled. The direction is very plain, and although we presume the framers of the clause meant that suspension or expulsion in the lodge should mean and actually be suspension or expulsion in the Chapter, yet

it does not so read; in fact, just the reverse, and to prove that such is the case, we believe a companion some years ago, who had been suspended and expelled from his lodge and Grand Lodge, and subsequently from his Chapter and Grand Chapter, was restored by vote of the Grand Chapter of Canada to “his Arch Masonic functions,” although an expelled Mason by the Grand Lodge of Canada.

Again, in proof of our theory that expulsion from Symbolic Masonry does not, *ipso facto*, mean expulsion from Capitular, we refer to clause XV. on foot of page 15, Bk. Con. G. Ch. Canada; it says:—

“In Grand Chapter alone resides the power of * * expelling companions from this Order of Freemasonry,” clearly indicating that charges must be brought and action taken in Chapter and Grand Chapter, before such bodies can recognize any suspension or expulsion by symbolic bodies. In other words, we hold that, according to the Constitution of the Grand Chapter of Canada, suspension or expulsion in a Blue Lodge or Grand Lodge has no effect so far as a companion's Royal Arch standing is concerned, unless action is taken upon the same by the Chapter and Grand Chapter.

Again, in clause LXXXVI, page 32, we find, “No companion shall be suspended or excluded under any circumstances, until he shall have due notice of the charge or complaint preferred against him and of the time appointed for its consideration, so that he may be present and be afforded every opportunity of defending himself, before a decision is rendered