

the purpose of securing larger representation, and probably also, that from Past Masters, a more experienced character of representatives was likely to result, and as having a tendency to give an undue influence to old Lodges and those located near the Grand Lodge." We find no trouble in this respect from the presence and influence of Past Masters, who appear just as able and willing to share in the work as either Masters or Wardens; besides giving the benefit of their continually increasing experience in the management of the affairs of the jurisdiction.

We quote a resolution relative to the *one* ballot for the three degrees. This practice has uniformly obtained with us in Nova Scotia since our formation in 1866, and to our knowledge no fault has been found with it, the initiatory ballot being understood with us to confer the right to receive the three degrees as proficiency is attained. If, *ad interim*, any legitimate cause arises to warrant the prevention of further advancement of the initiate, and such we contend can only be of such a nature as to *demand charges* to be preferred, the Lodge has the remedy in its own hands, and must then do, that which had better been done when the candidate was proposed for initiation, and not possibly put this power into the hands of some vindictive brother, who might be tempted to annoy by the use of the ballot for advancement of each degree, one, whom he might have debarred by his own *one* ballot from ever entering our degrees. Initiation does not necessarily imply advancement; nor, until suitable proficiency has been attained, can such be received. If any other cause exists, the matter must be brought before the brethren in a formal manner, and the preventing impediment ascertained and acted upon. We approvingly quote the resolution:

Resolved, That one ballot upon the petition of an applicant for the degrees of Masonry, if clear, shall entitle such applicant to the three degrees: *Provided*, that any officer or member of the Lodge, in which such application is made, may make objection to the conferring of either degree, or to the further advancement of the candidate. Such objection, if not withdrawn, shall be referred to a committee to inquire into the cause thereof, who shall, at the next stated meeting, report thereon, and if, upon the reception of such report, no cause for the objection has been assigned, or if the cause assigned be, in the opinion of two-thirds of the members present, not a valid Masonic one, the Lodge shall proceed to confer the degree, as though objection had not been made. It being the true intent of this Regulation that a favor-

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