

The only subsidiary motions that can be entertained in a masonic Lodge, during the discussion of a main question, are the following: to *lie on the table*; to *postpone indefinitely*; to *postpone to a day certain*; to *commit*, or to *amend*; which several motions have precedence in the order in which they are above arranged. That is to say, the main question being before the Lodge, a motion may be made to amend it. It may then be moved to commit the motion and the amendment to a committee for report. While this question is pending, a motion may be made to postpone the question to the next communication, or to any other specified time. This may be replaced by another motion, to postpone the further consideration of the motion indefinitely; and, lastly, before any one of these privileged questions has been put to the Lodge, a motion may be made to let the whole subject lie on the table; and this, if adopted, puts an end at once to all further discussion.

Or, a principal motion being before the Lodge, a motion to amend it may be offered, and immediately the whole four privileged questions may be presented at the same time by four different members. One may move to commit; another, to postpone to a day certain; a third, to postpone indefinitely; and a fourth, to lay the motion on the table. Then each of these questions must be put in the order of its precedence. The presiding officer will first put the motion to lie on the table; this being rejected, he will put that for indefinite postponement; if that is rejected, he will then put the motion for postponement to a day certain; on its rejection, he will put the motion to commit; that being lost, he will put the amendment; and, if that is rejected, he will conclude by proposing the main question or principal motion.

It will be seen that a motion to amend is the last in order, and that, when it is offered, there are four ways, besides and before rejection, by which it may be put out of the presence and possession, for the time being, of the Lodge. Yet as amendments are offered more frequently than any of the other secondary questions on the first presentation of the principal motion, and as the other subsidiary motions only affect the time or mode of consideration, while amendments are intended to change the form, the substance, and sometimes the very object of the main question, it seems proper that they should be first considered; after which the other subsidiary motions will be taken up in the order of their precedence: the one which overrides all the others being the first to be considered. We shall thus proceed by a descending gradation from the highest to the lowest, precisely in the order in which these various privileged questions would be put by the chair. The order of consideration will therefore be as follows:

1. Of amendments.
2. Of the motion to lie on the table.
3. Of the motion to postpone indefinitely.
4. Of the motion to postpone to a day certain.
5. Of the motion to commit.

Each of these will form the subject-matter of a distinct chapter.

CHAPTER XII.

OF AMENDMENTS.

Etymologically, "to amend" is to make better, by expunging a fault. In the language of parliamentary law, to amend is to make a change, whether it be for the better or the worse.

When a motion is pending before a Lodge, it is competent for any