

It would appear quite as impossible to say that a District Deputy Grand Master could be deprived of his official powers, as that he could be deprived of the rights of membership. He may not exercise his official powers, unless he chooses to do so. He may keep them in abeyance, but if the occasion arises, the powers are there, and can be brought into action at pleasure.

If the District Deputy Grand Master uses his powers in a harsh or arbitrary manner, his actions can be revised. An appeal in all cases lies to the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge. Obedience to our superiors is one of the first duties inculcated to a Mason. The order should be obeyed, and if thought unjust, an appeal should be made to the Grand Master or Grand Lodge by whom justice will be done.

An exception to this rule, however, is clearly allowable in cases where the act commanded to be done is one which, if performed, cannot be undone; such as the conferring of a degree. An illegal suspension may be removed, an improper restoration may be set aside; but a degree once conferred cannot be withdrawn. An act is thereby done which cannot be undone. An injustice may be perpetrated which it is impossible to rectify, as the *status quo* cannot be regained. A Master, therefore, would be perfectly justified in refusing to comply with an order of the District Deputy Grand Master to confer a degree; and he would be upheld in his refusal by the Grand Lodge.

The only constitutional provision relating to the District Deputy Grand Master which now remains to be noticed, provides that if he neglects to proceed on any case or business which may be sent for his decision, within a reasonable time, the matter may be transmitted to the Grand Secretary. It is to be hoped that there may be very few cases, where this alternative course shall be necessary. Brethren who accept this high

and honorable position should perform all its duties faithfully.

We have now touched upon all the important points relating to the office of District Deputy Grand Master. Much more doubtless remains which could have been said, as we do not pretend that this is by any means an exhaustive treatise on the subject. We hope, however, that these remarks will be of some service to our co-laborers in the Masonic vineyard.

The Brethren who accept this important office by no means acquire honor without labor. Their duties are often arduous, and require no small amount of patience and ability, together with a knowledge of the laws and customs of the fraternity. The new Lodges should be their particular care. These are often situated in remote parts of the country, and their visitation sometimes entails real hardships.

In the settlement of disputes, and in preserving the harmony of the Lodges, the services of a District Deputy Grand Master are very valuable. With wise and prudent counsel, aided, if necessary, by the strong hand of authority, the strife between Brethren is often healed, and unity and concord restored.

The benefits to the Craft from the existence of this office are unquestionable. The experience of these officers and their knowledge of the state and condition of the Lodges, form a valuable aid in Grand Lodge, when legislating for the great body of the Craft. We cannot, however, pursue this branch of the subject any farther at present.

In conclusion, we would bespeak a larger measure of appreciation of our District Deputy Grand Masters; and more frequent and substantial recognition of their services by the Brethren. We are happy in being able to submit our contribution to the proper understanding of this honorable office, to the favorable consideration of our readers.