

THE RIGHT OF OBJECTION.

In the Foreign Correspondence of Mississippi, under "California," the right of objecting to the advancement of a candidate is discussed as follows:

"The right to object belongs to every member of a lodge. He may do this through the ballot-box, or he may rise in open lodge and say, 'Worshipful Sir, I object to the advancement of the candidate.'

"Now, if a lodge may inquire why a verbal objection is made, and when stated, decide upon its validity, why may it not, upon the same principle, take steps to find out who made the objections through the ballot-box, and decide upon the validity of the objection lodged there? Cases may arise where it would be best for all concerned not to state the objection.

"The following suggests itself to our mind as illustrative of this point: In — Lodge, a young man, who stood high in the community, had been initiated and passed. When the ballot was spread on his application for the third degree, it was found that he was rejected. Being of such irreproachable character, as was this young man, the lodge was astonished; the M. W. no less so than the members. In a very few minutes, the members, one after another, began to arise and state, in very emphatic terms, that they had not cast the black-ball. Instead of preventing this novel procedure, the W. M. allowed it to go on. Seeing what would be the result of such a course, if allowed to continue, a brother, eminent in science as well as in Masonry, rose up and said he had been taught that the right to object to the advancement of a candidate belonged to every member of the lodge, and that he could not be questioned about it. He further stated: 'I cast the black-ball in this case, and I hope I shall be saved the painful experience of giving my reason for having so done.' This, however, instead of putting a quietus upon the subject,

only made the members more earnest in their importunities. Seeing no way of escape, he said: 'I am a physician, and in the practice of my profession I am possessed of many family secrets, which never ought to be told. I know whereof I speak, when I say that this young man has seduced the daughter of a Master Mason, and that Master Mason is the W. M. of this lodge.' The result can well be imagined. The W. M. had no one to blame but himself for all this trouble. Brethren, you had better let the objections alone, and leave them just where the principles of Masonry and the ballot-box leave them—and that is, with the objecting brother."

The same Report contains some interesting points in regard to the physical disqualification question:—

"When is a man made a Mason? Does it require all three of the Blue Lodge degrees? or is he a Mason after he has received the E. A. degree?

"These queries were raised by reading a report from the Committee on Law and Jurisprudence on physical disqualifications after initiation.

"The case is as follows:—A brother was elected by a lodge to receive the degrees in Masonry, and in due time the lodge initiated him. Some time after this the hall and all the effects of the lodge which conferred the degree were destroyed by fire, and the lodge suspended work for some months. During this interval the brother, whilst in pursuit of his daily avocations, lost a part of his right hand, whereby he was disabled from conforming literally to all the requirements of the several degrees. When the lodge resumed work the maimed brother asked for the conferring of the remaining degrees. Doubting the right to confer them, the lodge appealed to the Grand Lodge for instruction.

"The report of the committee is, in substance, this:—

"First, That their general regulation does not, by its terms, nor in its