

MASONIC HALL, MONTREAL.

In our last issue, we informed our readers of a rumor in connection with the disposal of the property in the above room, belonging to six Lodges in this city.

We state with regret that some farce upon justice has taken place, by which two of the above six Lodges are deprived of the use, enjoyment and possession of their property under the plea that by their giving in their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Quebec, they have forfeited all right and claim which they unquestionably had in it. The authority invoked for this very questionable measure is taken, we believe from sec. 33, of Article "of Private Lodges," in the Book of Constitution, which clearly refers to our mind to Lodges dying out by a decrease of members.

This section, after declaring that no authority but the Grand Lodge can destroy the power vested in subordinate Lodges, concludes in the following words:—

"If, therefore, the majority of any Lodge should determine to quit the "Lodge, the constitution or power of assembling remains with the rest of the "members; provided their number be not less than seven, otherwise, the "warrant ceases and becomes extinct, and all the authority thereby granted "or enjoyed, shall revert to the Grand Lodge, together with the funds and "property of said Lodge."

Such a crisis as we are now passing through, evidently never entered the imagination of those who superintended the edition of this Book of Constitution, as there is nothing specifically laid down to meet the case, and we assert without fear of contradiction that a like disregard of the rights of Lodges, has never been shown by any high official in any similar position.

It cannot be said that either of the two Lodges referred to, have so fallen off in numbers that they cannot properly work, so the only palliative that remains, is that they are clandestine. The utter absurdity of the latter opinion is, we think, too plain to require any comment on it. The Masonic press are almost unanimous in advising the mother Grand Lodge to set her house in order for the inevitable separation that must take place, while the highest Masonic authorities declare that the right exists for the formation of the new Grand Lodge.

It follows then, that if such right exists with regard to the Grand Lodge, the subordinate Lodges under it must be properly constituted, and being so, possess in themselves the same powers that were inherent in them, prior to the formation of the new authority.

A case in point occurs to us. Should any of the Lodges in this city, working under English jurisdiction, determine upon joining the Quebec Grand Lodge, would such Lodge or Lodges, or the Mother Grand Lodge, entertain the idea for one moment that their property had become confiscated? Certainly not; we go further, and assert that such a course would be regarded with downright repugnance by the Grand Lodge of England, even if such power undoubtedly existed in it.

For the reputation of our order, then, we deplore the laxity of principle displayed by those whose conduct should be a bright and shining example to the whole craft, whose dealings with men, and especially Masons, it should be the desire of all to emulate. What a mockery to all sense of justice, to con-