

motion to amend the constitution so that all business be transacted in the third degree was defeated by a small majority at the meeting of Grand Lodge. While we have no sympathy with the movement, which will again engage the attention of Grand Lodge next year, yet we are not so blinded by prejudice as to see that it is gaining in popularity. The total vote cast on the question was 846, the yeas numbering 501, and the nays 345. As the constitution can only be amended by a two-third majority, the motion was defeated by 63 votes. The vote may or may not have been a fair one, as many of the brethren had before retiring handed their voting papers for the Board of General Purposes over to others, and as the yeas or nays was recorded on those papers, advantage may have been taken of the transfer. On a future occasion we will refer to some of the reasons set forth why the change should be made.

The opposition to the Irish work in the London lodges received such a quietus at Grand Lodge that it will be some time before another attack will be made upon it. The brethren in attendance at Grand Lodge showed that they had some regard for pledges made by their predecessors, and respected a solemn compact made when 209a became connected with the Grand Lodge of Canada. One of the arguments advanced by the opponents of the Irish work was that Grand Lodge had not the power constitutionally to allow a foreign ritual to be used in its jurisdiction. The constitutionality of the proceedings was never questioned, but the point that commended itself to Grand Lodge was whether or not it

could maintain its honor by violating an agreement. Fortunately for Grand Lodge the moral aspect of the case was deemed of more importance than a legal technicality. THE CRAFTSMAN congratulates Bros. Dewar, Davis, and their energetic associates upon the almost unanimous support given them at Grand Lodge, and expresses the hope that 209a may meet with that success which should always be found associated with zealous Masons. It is a pleasure to us to recollect that THE CRAFTSMAN took the side of the lodges assailed, and we can therefore rejoice with them upon the almost unanimous defeat of the mischievous amendment.

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THE GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

GRAND MASTER WALKEM is to be congratulated upon the facts and figures which he was enabled to lay before Grand Lodge in his address. He also made a number of excellent suggestions which if acted upon cannot but prove advantageous to the Craft.

In alluding to the financial position of Grand Lodge Bro. Walkem said that its capital a year ago was \$69,243 of which \$60,000 was invested. During a period of twenty years, the capital has increased about \$34,000, while in the past thirty-one years Grand Lodge has devoted to benevolent purposes \$171,319, the grants for 1888 alone amounting to \$10,805. There are upon the list of pensioners of Grand Lodge 355 widows, 55 orphans and 31 needy brethren.

The refusal of the Grand Master to grant dispensations for the establishment of lodges in territory fully occupied