

turb the harmony of this meeting, or of the Craft, which I deeply regret to say has been seriously disturbed of late. In rising to propose the adoption of this report, I am bound to do so because your lordship has summoned us here to do it, and it seems to me a question which has already been decided in a regular Grand Lodge (applause), and I do hope your lordship will allow me temperately to argue this point." (Hear, hear.)

The Grand Master: "I cannot allow you to do so, and I do hope that Grand Lodge will support me in endeavouring to do my duty in expounding the law to the best of my ability, and I shall not submit, after so expounding the law, to have my decision controverted on the present occasion. I must beg the worthy Brother therefore to confine himself to the question of the report, which is the only question before Grand Lodge, and not to the law which I have laid down. (Applause.)"

Bro. Burlington: "The question is, who has the power to make the laws of Freemasonry? (Hear, hear, and loud applause.) It is distinctly stated that Grand Lodge alone has the inherent power of enacting laws. You will allow me to read a clause."

Bro. Dobie: "Most Worshipful Sir, I rise to order!"

Bro. Burlington read from the Book of Constitutions: "The G. Lodge alone has the power inherent of enacting laws and regulations for the government of the Craft, and of altering, repealing, and abrogating them, always taking care that the ancient landmarks of the Order be preserved. The Grand Lodge has also the power of investigating, regulating, and deciding all matters relative to the Craft or to particular Lodges, or to individual Brothers, which it may exercise either of itself or by such delegated authority as, in its wisdom and discretion, it may appoint; but in the Grand Lodge alone resides the power of creating Lodges and expelling Brethren from the Craft, a power which it does not delegate to any subordinate authority in England." I respectfully submit that the Grand Lodge alone has the power to do all this, and enact these laws and regulations for the government of the whole Craft. It is not, therefore, unreasonable for us to presume that we have the power of adjourning from one day to the other. There is no single bye-law which says that Grand Lodge has not such power, and under these circumstances I contend that it has the power—(applause)—and I think, Most Worshipful Sir—"

Bro. Havers: "I rise to order." (Hisses.)

The Grand Master gave the Brother permission to speak, and Bro. Havers proceeded. "Brethren, I could hardly imagine that you could have stopped me in this way. (Laughter.) I have but one object in view, and so long as the Grand Master rules that I am in order I shall go on—(oh, and hear, hear)—and I have now to submit to your lordship, that the Brother who has just spoken was out of order, because you have justly ruled that you have power to state what is the law, and that you will not allow your decision to be discussed." (Question.)

The Grand Master: "The Brother was speaking in order with my permission, and I hope the Brethren will know themselves better than to interrupt with cries of 'Question, question,' under such circumstances." (Applause and laughter.)

Bro. Havers then continued: "No one," he said, "can doubt that Grand Lodge has the power inherent. (Loud cries of 'Question, question,' and hisses.) Why, surely, we are not to submit here to tyranny like this, which is greater than has ever been heard of." (Laughter.)

Bro. Binckes: "I rise to order." (Applause.)

Bro. Havers: "Grand Lodge, I was going to say has the power to alter its laws, but you must make this new law first, and till it is so made you must abide by the laws which are made."

Bro. Burlington again attempted to address the Brethren, but was stopped by

The Grand Master, who said: "I am bound by my solemn obligation to maintain the laws and usages of the Craft. There is only one interpretation of that oath, I must maintain those laws and usages to the best of my knowledge and ability, and enforce them according to my own interpretation of them. (Oh, oh!) Brethren may say 'Oh,

oh!' but so long as I occupy this chair I shall maintain order in Grand Lodge. (Applause.) I shall interpret the law to the best of my ability. I assert, then, on my own responsibility, that the Wor. Bro. Burlington was following out a line of argument which is disorderly, and which he is not competent to pursue, I therefore call upon him to refrain." (Applause.)

Bro. Burlington: "It is all very well for your lordship to act according to your own understanding, but there are other persons here who must be allowed to interpret them according to the best of their judgment [cheers], and—"

The Grand Master: "If the Worshipful Bro. proceeds in this strain, I shall have to request him to leave Grand Lodge." [Applause.]

Bro. Burlington: "Then I will only make one more remark, and that is, we find, in page 31, Article 10: 'If the Grand Master shall abuse his power—'"

The boisterous applause which interrupted this passage was such that it prevented Bro. Burlington from continuing. There were however loud and continued cries of "Read! read!" and the result was that the Grand Master himself read the clause, which was as follows:

"If the Grand Master should abuse his power, and render himself unworthy of the obedience of the Lodges, he shall be subjected to some new regulation, to be dictated by the occasion; because, hitherto, the ancient Fraternity have had no reason to provide for an event which they have presumed would never happen." "By that law," concluded the Grand Master "I am perfectly willing to abide." [Loud applause.]

Bro. Burlington then brought forward his motion for the adoption of the report, but said that he did so under protest, and only to prevent any further delay in so important a matter [cheers], while doing so, he entered his solemn protest because he would maintain that the business had been settled already. [Cheers.] But because he wished to do justice to the Canadian Brethren, he would then move that the report be received and adopted. Much he might have said on that subject, in temperate terms, such as one Freemason has a right to address to another, but when knocked down by the gavel, as he had been, he could do no more in support of his motion than to express his dissatisfaction generally with the result of the mismanagement, so far as the colonial affairs of the Craft were concerned. He concluded by formally proposing his motion, which was seconded by Bro. Kent late Prov. G.M. for Australia.

Bro. Dobie suggested that the clauses should be put *seriatim*, which was agreed to.

On Clause 1,

Bro. Binckes asked permission to refer to one or two other parts of the Books of Constitutions.

The Grand Master said that he would not allow it.

Bro. Binckes said, that then he would have to move an amendment for the purpose of calling attention to the decision which his lordship had unfortunately given. This amendment was, "That this Grand Lodge having already decided, in a Grand Lodge legally constituted [oh, oh! and loud cheers], the question which is now before them, it cannot be settled in Grand Lodge twice. [Protracted cheering.] He thought it was very inexpedient to proceed further with this motion, because Clause 13 said 'All powers, authorities, rules, and regulations, for the government of the Grand Lodge, or Provincial Grand Lodges, or private Lodges, or Boards, or Committees respectively, during times of public business, or meetings, or proceedings, shall be used, and exercised, and enforced respectively by the officers or members by any law or constitution authorized to preside or act in the absence of the Grand Master, or any superior officer or member in such Lodges, Boards, or Committees, or in the general government of the Craft, as fully to all intents and purposes as if such substitute, officers, or members were specified in every law or constitution in which any powers or authorities are given, or rules or regulations prescribed for the principals, unless special provision is made to the contrary.'"

Bro. Dobie called Bro. Binckes's attention to the fact, that the Grand Master had decided that they should not raise points of discussion on the Book of Constitutions, but go on with the report. [Hear, hear.]

Bro. Binckes contended that the Brethren which declared the last Quarterly Communication adjourned till October meeting duly opened for the purposes of Masonry, were the Grand Master of Masons *pro hac vice*, and had every authority for what they did.

The Grand Master said, that was arguing against his decision, and once more he must say he would not allow it.

Bro. Binckes: "This is not the way to promote the interests of Masonry: while there is this difference of opinion amongst us, the matter should be allowed to be argued." [Applause.]

The Grand Master: "Whatever your own opinion may be, I hope you will give me credit for acting to the best of my power in the manner which I believe it to be my duty to act. I have expounded the law, and I will not allow that exposition to be controverted in this way."

Bro. Binckes: "Will your lordship allow me to ask you a question? [Loud cries of 'Yes, yes!' and 'No, no!'] It would be disrespectful in me, after what your lordship has said, to press this matter any further. [Applause.] I shall now simply move this amendment: 'That this motion having been already discussed and decided upon by a legally constituted Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge deems it inexpedient and unnecessary to reopen the question or further to consider thereon.'" [Loud cheers.]

The Rev. Bro. Lyall seconded the motion.

Bro. Havers suggested to his lordship that he could not put such a motion as that.

The Grand Master: "I shall certainly refuse to put the amendment."

The Rev. Bro. Portal, whose rising was greeted with loud and hearty applause, spoke as follows: "It is with extreme pain and regret that I find myself compelled to move a separate amendment on the motion which has just been made by the W. Bro. Burlington, and in doing so I wish to pay the most implicit obedience to the Grand Master sitting in his chair, though for the present he has refused to allow us to quote and consider our own laws; I, therefore, shall not quote from them. His lordship has refused to allow us to pass an opinion as to the extent of our own jurisdiction, and I shall, therefore, not enter into that subject. There is an old adage which informs us that 'a child may lead a horse to water, but a hundred men cannot make him drink.' [Loud cheers, and laughter.] I contend that if we are asked to stultify ourselves in this manner, that till we have considered this question, we ought to declare that we will not discuss any other. [Loud cheers.] Therefore, while I submit to the Grand Master in the chair, as a member of Grand Lodge, I feel bound to maintain its dignity: and I therefore do move 'That this Grand Lodge declines to proceed to any other business till it has been allowed to decide on its inherent authority and prerogative.'" [Loud applause.]

Bro. Hearn seconded the amendment.

Bro. Roxburgh rose to move another amendment.

Bro. Warren said an amendment could not be put upon an amendment, till the first amendment was disposed of.

Bro. Roxburgh: "It has been stated by the Rev. Bro. Portal, that the Grand Master has refused to permit Grand Lodge to consider its own constitutions. [Hear, hear.] That I deny. [Applause.] Masonry is bound by its laws, and there is but one constitutional method of amending those laws; and if the worthy Brother is desirous of amending them, he can do so in the proper way, viz., by giving a substantive notice of motion, which would then be considered by the Grand Lodge. So long as the Worshipful Master occupies that chair, he is bound to maintain those laws, and in the exposition of them he has given his own notion in accordance with his views of his obligation, in which I concur. He is bound to put his own construction upon them, and to administer them to the best of his belief. That there are Brethren who