

## MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

QUESTION.—Has a brother, who has applied to a chapter for exaltation and been black-balled, a right to accuse a member of his blue lodge of having cast the black ball, and can he prefer a charge against the latter for violation of his obligation as a M. M.? In fact, is not the rejected candidate's conduct in such case entirely unmasonic, and is not he liable to censure from his lodge?

ANSWER.—The brother has no right to make such an accusation, nor would the act of black-balling, even if established, which it could scarcely be in view of the fact that it is a masonic offence in Capitular as in Craft masonry to violate the secrecy of the ballot, be good ground upon which to base a charge before a Blue Lodge. In this country there is no connection whatever between the lodge and the chapter, each being absolutely independent. Up to recently there was a *quasi* connection, in that by the Constitution of Royal Arch Masons of Canada, it was declared that in all cases not specially provided for, the Order should be considered bound by the Constitutions of Free and Accepted Masons; but in the later editions of the Constitution, this has been omitted. No proceedings, therefore, of a Royal Arch Chapter, and nothing arising out of such proceedings, can be made the subject of enquiry in the Blue Lodge. We answer both questions in the negative.

QUESTION.—Can a lodge, after a candidate has been proposed and accepted, refuse to initiate him upon the ground that circumstances have since transpired rendering him, in the opinion of the brethren, not a fit and proper person to be made a Mason?

ANSWER.—The W. M. can refuse to proceed with the initiation if he deems the interest of the lodge and the Craft to require it. He can do this from time to time, until the period has elapsed within which accepted candidates must present themselves for initiation; and then the candidate must renew his application and submit to a second ballot. No W. M. ought to initiate a candidate whom he believes unworthy; even when, in ignorance of the facts of his character, the lodge has accepted him.

QUESTION.—A brother applies for a dimit to his lodge, on the ground that he intends permanently to change his place of residence, and it is granted. He leaves, but at the end of a few months returns without having affiliated with any other lodge, and requests his old lodge to reinstate him; without the formality of a ballot, upon his paying up his dues. Can the lodge do this, or must the brother go through the form prescribed for "Joining Members"? If on the ballot he should be rejected, how ordinary long a time must elapse before he may again apply?

ANSWER.—The lodge cannot admit him as proposed. Having given him his dimit, he becomes an unaffiliated mason, and his position towards the lodge granting it is in no way different from his position towards any other lodge in the world. He must make formal application to be admitted and must submit to the test of the ballot. If rejected, he may apply again at the same or any subsequent meeting of that or any other lodge for admission, and is entitled in the meantime to visit, as a visiting brother simply, that or any other lodge.

QUESTION.—Can a lodge grant permission to hold a Lodge of Instruction outside of their own lodge-room; and if so, is it necessary to appoint a person to see that the work is properly done?

ANSWER.—Permission may be granted by a lodge to hold a Lodge of Instruction in any suitable room within its jurisdiction; and the lodge granting the permission is "answerable for the proceedings of such Lodge of Instruction, and responsible that the mode of working there adopted has received the sanction of Grand Lodge." It is not necessa-