

is held, that the presence of the warrant of the constitution is essential to the legality of the proceedings.

As to the composition of a "perfect Lodge," that is to say, as to the number of brethren necessary to make a quorum for the transaction of business, the old constitutions and regulations are silent, and the authorities consequently differ. In reply to an inquiry directed to him in 1857, the editor of the *London Freemasons' Magazine* affirmed that five Masons are sufficient to open a Lodge, and carry on business other than initiation; for which latter purpose seven are necessary. This opinion appears to be the general English one, and is acquiesced in by Dr. Oliver; but there is no authority of law for it. And when, in the year 1818, the suggestion was made that some regulation was necessary relative to the number of brethren requisite to constitute a legal Lodge, with competent powers to preform the rite of initiation, and transact all other business, the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge of England, to whom the suggestion had been referred, replied, with something like Dogberrian astuteness, "that it is a matter of so much delicacy and difficulty, that it is thought advisable not to depart from the silence on the subject which had been observed in all the books of constitutions."

In the absence, then, of all written laws upon the subject, and without any constitutional provision to guide us, we are compelled to recur to the ritual for authority. There the answer to the question in each degree, "How many compose a Lodge?" will supply us with the rule by which we are to establish the quorum in that degree. For whatever number composes a Lodge, that is the number which will authorize the Lodge to proceed to business. The ritual has thus established the number which constitutes a "perfect Lodge," and without which number a Lodge could not be legally opened, and therefore, necessarily, could not proceed to work or business; for there is no distinction, in respect to a quorum, between a Lodge when at work, or when engaged in business.

According to the ritualistic rule referred to, seven constitute a quorum, for work or business, in an Entered Apprentice's Lodge, five in a Fellowcraft's, and three in a Master Mason's. Without this requisite number no Lodge can be opened in either of these degrees. In a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons nine Companions constitute a quorum, and in a Commandery of Knight Templars eleven Knights, although, under certain circumstances well known to the Order, three Knights are competent to transact business.

I have said that the provision of the parliamentary law which permits less than a quorum to organize for the purpose of immediate adjournment is not applicable to a masonic Lodge. Adjournment is a mode of concluding business which is unknown in Freemasonry. The Lodge is opened and closed at the "will and pleasure" of the Worshipful Master, and hence, as a motion for adjournment would be out of order, no good could be accomplished by the temporary organization of a less number than a quorum. In Parliament or in Congress, the appointed time of meeting having expired, in is necessary that a new time should be appointed for the next meeting; for which purpose those present, although less than a quorum, are permitted by their adjournment to designate that time.

The quorum in Grand Lodges depends upon special enactment, and differs in the different jurisdictions. The quorum in a Grand Lodge is