

and to a Standing Committee on Charity would be submitted all applications for aid and relief.

Standing Committees are usually appointed at the beginning of the Masonic year, and continue in office until its close. The mode of their appointment depends on the provisions of the by-laws, which sometimes designate the members, and sometimes direct them to be elected by the Lodge or appointed by the Master. Thus, as to the first class, many Lodges have provided, that the first five or the first three officers shall constitute a Standing Committee on Finance, to whom all financial matters shall be submitted. And, in reference to the other class, it is also sometimes provided, that three or five members shall be appointed by the new Master, or elected by the Lodge on the night of the annual election, who shall act as a Committee on Charity, to whom all petitions for relief and assistance made to the Lodge during the coming year shall be submitted. There may be other Standing Committees, as, for instance, on the library, or on the hall, who are appointed in one of the ways already designated; but to constitute them Standing Committees, in the strict, technical sense of the term, their appointment or election should be made at the beginning of the Masonic year, and their functions should continue until its close; and this appointment or election should not be made under the authority of a resolution, but of a special by-law or clause in the constitution of the Lodge, just as Standing Committees are formed under the rules appointed at the beginning of the Congress. Committees established at any other time, by a mere resolution, although they may be appointed for an indefinite period, and may be directed to have cognizance not of a single proposition, but of all propositions of a particular class that may, from time to time, present themselves for consideration, can be viewed only as *quasi* Standing Committees, but are really Select Committees, and are to be governed in the mode of their appointment by the rules that regulate the appointment of such bodies.

Select Committees are appointed under a resolution of the Lodge for the investigation and consideration of some proposition which, having been presented, it is deemed more convenient should thus be inquired into by a few members, who can more readily than a large number put the matter into proper shape for the action of the whole body. In the discussion of this subject we are first to look to the mode of their appointment, and then to the manner in which they are to discharge their functions, which, of course, includes the question of their duties and powers.

In the first place, as to the mode of their appointment; Here the parliamentary and the Masonic law differ very widely. Anciently, in the English House of Commons, it was the practice when a Committee was ordered, for the members of the House to call out names for the Committee, and for the clerk to take down the names without any formal question, until the requisite number had been obtained. But this practice has been abandoned, and it is now the usage for the person who moves for the Committee also to move the names of those who are to compose it, each one being proposed separately, and the vote is then taken on his acceptance; and although, as a matter of courtesy, the list proposed is generally accepted, it is competent for the House to reject any one or all of them, and, by an amendment to each motion, to place some other member on the list in the place of the one rejected.

In the American House of Representatives the rule is for the Speaker,