

heroic and enlightened people to whom, it would seem, the whole of the seas were known.

“Leaving apart trifling matters, I will proceed to treat of the crossing of the Phœnicians from Africa to Brazil. To explain this crossing, of which they themselves appeared to be unaware, I have resorted to the beautiful and classic studies of Maury on oceanic currents, and I gather that the same happened to our Sidonians as did to Pedro Alvarez Cabral, 2,000 years later, when knowing nothing of Brazil, he found himself unexpectedly off its shore. The only difference is that Cabral sailed from north to south while the Phœnician, voyaged from south to north. Like Cabral, in fleeing from the storms reiging from the Cape of Good Hope up to near Senegambia, they steered into the high sea, and seized by the famous equatorial current, which sometimes flows with extraordinary swiftness, they unexpectedly came upon the Brazilian shores.”

PARLIAMENTARY LAW, AS APPLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF MASONIC BODIES.

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BY ALBERT G. MACKAY, M. D.

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CHAPTER XXXIII.

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OF FILLING BLANKS.
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A proposition is sometimes presented to a meeting and even adopted in an incomplete form ; as when, in a motion for an appropriation of money, the precise amount is not stated ; or when, in a proposition to do something at a future time, the exact day is left for subsequent consideration. In each of these cases a blank occurs, which must be filled up. It is usual to leave the filling up of the blank until the motion is adopted, because if it should be rejected, any further discussion on the subject would be unnecessary.

After the proposition has been adopted, the next question to be put by the chair is, “How shall the blank be filled.” And then as the motion to fill the blank is not considered in the light of an amendment to the original motion, but rather as an independent proposition, which is intended to give it completion, any number of these propositions may be made. But of course there must be an order in which they are to be considered.

In the early days of the British Parliament these blanks generally referred to the amount of taxes to be levied and to the time at which they should be collected. And as the object of the members was to reduce as much as possible the burdens of the people, the effort was always made to fill the blank for money with the smallest sum, and the blank for the day on which it was to be collected with the longest time. Hence sprang the rule, which still exists in Parliament, that in filling blanks the smallest sum and the longest time shall be first put.

But in this country a different rule prevails. Here the reason that governs is not to begin at that extreme which, being as Jefferson, citing Grey, says, within every man’s wish, no one could negative it ; and yet, if he should vote in the affirmative, every question for more would be precluded ; but at the extreme he would unite few, and then to advance and recede until you get a number which will unite