

catalogue of what may in a Masonic assembly be deemed questions of privilege:

1. Any matter which affects the character of a member. Hence questions relating to charges of misconduct are questions of privilege, and may be presented at any time.

2. Matters that affect the character of the Lodge, as false and scandalous reports of its proceedings.

3. Matters affecting the secrecy or safety of the Lodge, where a brother deems it necessary to give the proper precautions.

Under these three heads, I think, may be embraced all those subjects usually enumerated in works on parliamentary law as questions of privilege.

A question of privilege is always in order. Whenever a member rises and says, "I rise to a question of privilege," the question must first be stated. The presiding officer will decide whether it is or is not such a question. If he decides that it is, then the consideration of any other business whatsoever, that may at that time be before the Lodge must be suspended until the question of privilege is disposed of.

And this disposition of the question may be either by entertaining it at once, and deciding it on its merits, or by any other of the modes of disposition to which any other question is subject. It may be ordered to lie on the table, be postponed definitely or indefinitely, or be committed for investigation and report to a committee. In the last case the character of a question of privilege adheres to the report, the presentation of which will always be in order, and will take precedence of all other business. But it does not follow that the immediate consideration of and final action on the report must be had; for the report, like the question to which it refers, is subject to the operation of any of the subsidiary motions, and may, like any other report, be laid on the table, postponed, or recommitted.

Questions of privilege, it must be remembered are entitled to presentation at any time, for in this consists their privilege; but that privilege does not extend to their consideration. Having been once presented, they become, as to the time and manner of their consideration, subject to the rules which affect all other questions.

CHAPTER XXV.

OF PRIVILEGED QUESTIONS.

There is another class of questions, called "privileged questions," which are not, however, to be confounded with the class considered in the previous chapter; for, although all *questions of privilege* are *privilege questions*, it does not follow that all *privileged questions* are *questions of privilege*. Strictly speaking, in the language of parliamentary law, ~~questions of privilege~~ relate to the house or its members, and privileged questions relate to matters of business.

Privileged questions are defined to be those to which precedence is given over all other questions. They are of four kinds: 1. Those which relate to the rights and privileges of the assembly or any of its members. 2. Motions for adjournment. 3. Motions for reconsideration. 4. Special orders of the day.

The first of these classes, which constitutes what are properly called questions of privilege, has been discussed in the preceding chapter.