

MISSISSIPPI, 1882.—Grand Master McCormick says : " A member should not divulge how he voted, nor must the officers of a lodge make known the number of white or black balls cast, nor should any member make any remarks in connection therewith. The secrecy of the ballot must be preserved."

We go farther than this, for not only is a brother in our jurisdiction liable to suspension for revealing how he voted, but also should he endeavor to ascertain how any one else voted.

IRREGULARITY IN BALLOT.

CANADA, 1881.—Grand Master Henderson says : " The Worshipful Master and brethren of a lodge proceeded to ballot for a candidate for initiation, knowing that no report of a committee on character had been received, as the by-laws of the lodge required. The ballot was not favorable. I held it was too late to take advantage of the irregularity, that the candidate must be held as a rejected candidate, and must wait the twelve months before again applying, as is provided for by the constitution."

WEST VIRGINIA, 1881.—Grand Master Faulkner refused to grant a dispensation to Monroe Lodge, to reconsider the vote or the petition of a candidate, who was rejected by the deposit of two black balls, under article 14, of the general laws and regulations, no presumption of mistake can be entertained, where two black balls are found in the ballot box; and upon well recognized principles of masonry, no reconsideration of a ballot on a petition should be sanctioned. When the Worshipful Master announces the result of an unfavorable ballot, no question should be asked, nor should any attempt be made, to ascertain who, of the brethren present, in the exercise of his masonic right, and with a knowledge of his masonic obligation, deemed it proper to deny to the candidate, the honors and privileges of masonry. Any other action would tend to destroy the absolute secrecy of the ballot, one of the great landmarks of masonry.

BALLOT ON ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

RHODE ISLAND, 1881.—Grand Master Freeman decided upon the question as to what disposition should be made of a blank ballot found in the box at an election of officers, that a blank piece of paper had no value, expressed no choice, and should be thrown out before the vote was declared.

In Quebec it requires a majority of the votes of the members present to elect, hence a blank ballot must be counted, because it represents one of the members present.

USE OF THE BALLOT.

ILLINOIS, 1881.—Grand Master Scott says : " Too often, we fear, the ballot is made the vehicle of personal resentment or malice, and sometimes to gratify personal ambition.

" The masonic ballot stands at the threshold of our institution, its only protection against the introduction of material unfit for use, the vicious and unprincipled