

CORRESPONDENCE.

ANOMALOUS POSITION OF UNAFFILIATED MASONS.

To the Editor of the CRAFTSMAN:—

SIR AND BRO., I desire to offer some remarks as to the anomalous position which unaffiliated Masons hold, with a view to a motion at the approaching Grand Lodge Meeting, for placing them on a more just footing with respect to the Order generally. A Brother Mason who gets his demit from a Lodge, on removal to some other part of the Province, and being desirous of joining some other Lodge, has to undergo the ordeal of the Ballot in the same manner that a candidate for admission is subject to. I hold this to be wrong; and not only unjust, but, prejudicial to the welfare of our noble Craft. The stringency of the Ballot, in the case of applicants desiring entrance to the Craft, is one of the most valuable safeguards we have against the entry of improper persons; but, I cannot see on what principle of justice or expediency, why a Brother simply seeking affiliation, should be made to submit a *second time* to such a stringent test. It is high time that a more equitable system was adopted.

At the same time, I am not prepared to compel Lodges to grant affiliation to any Brother desiring it on a fair majority of votes or ballots; but, I deem it ridiculous that *one* black ball should exclude. I have no doubt that there are, at the present time, thousands of Masons who have, for various reasons, dropped out of Masonry so far as attendance at Lodge is concerned, who would gladly join again, but for the terror of the black ball. They hold, and justly so, that to be black balled on an application for affiliation is a stigma on their character, and rather than put themselves in the power of any malicious person so to stigmatize them, they remain outside to the grievous detriment of the Craft in general. In order to test the sense of the Grand Lodge on this point, I submit the following resolution in the hope that some Brother who thinks with me will introduce it next month at Ottawa, as a notice of motion for the annual Communication in 1877:

"Whereas it is manifestly unjust that a Brother Mason who seeks affiliation with any Lodge working under the Grand Lodge of Canada, shall be compelled to submit to the ordeal of the Ballot in the same manner as if he were a Candidate for initiation, be it resolved that the following be an amendment to the Constitution:—

"Any Brother Mason seeking affiliation with any Lodge working under the Grand Lodge of Canada, shall produce the Demit granted him from his Mother Lodge, and shall also fill up and sign the usual form for affiliation. His application shall be read at the next regular meeting of the Lodge, and by the Worshipful Master referred to a committee to report on the application. The Secretary shall also place the name of the applicant desiring to affiliate, on the notice paper to be sent to every member. At the next Regular Meeting, if the committee report in favor of the applicant, the Worshipful Master shall order the Ballot to pass, and if, on examination of the Ballot-box, two-thirds of the ballots cast shall appear in favor of the applicant, he shall be declared duly elected a member of the Lodge."

I think, Sir, that if two-thirds of the members present desire the admission of a Brother seeking affiliation, the other one-third should not prevail. If this resolution is adopted, and the constitution so amended, it is my opinion that thousands of Brethren would affiliate who are now "out in the cold," and a revival of Masonic spirit and activity would ensue which would redound to the welfare of the Craft. Who will take the matter up?

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours fraternally,

LORNE LODGE, }
Glencoe, 18 June, 1876. }

S. P.

A CAUTION—THE SPURIOUS GRAND LODGE.

To the Editor of the CRAFTSMAN:—

DEAR SIR AND R. W. BRO.—The thorough want of reason and knowledge of Masonic Law displayed by the founders of the spurious organization of the body termed the Grand Lodge of Ontario, has been so fully explained in your columns that a word of warning or advice regarding the same, seems almost superfluous; still, owing to the silent manner in which we work, the profane and ignorant may at any time confound the Lodges working under the so-called G. L. of Ontario, with those under the jurisdiction of the G. L. of Canada. We should therefore use every exertion to caution