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THE CRAFTSMAN;

AND

CANADIAN MASONIC RECORD.

Bro. J. J. MASON,
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THE LOST CHILD.

A MASONIC STORY.

CHAPTER I.

Faster and faster spread the flames, and now the ship was enveloped in a fiery sheet. Men and women rushed madly over the side, to meet a quicker but less painful death.

The boats, with one exception, had been overladen and capsized. There were hasty prayers, and heartrending cries of misery and distress. Death hovered, vulture-like, over the victims. Some clung desperately to the vessel's side, some supported themselves in the water by articles snatched hastily from the burning ship, and with which they had leaped wildly into the sea. The captain sung through his trumpet:

"Take heart and sustain yourself as long as possible. A ship is coming to our relief."

James Durant stood upon the almost deserted deck, with his only child but four years of age, folded closely in his arms. His eyes swept the horizon in search of the ship to which the captain had alluded. He discovered it at last, but it was at least four miles off. Before the ship could arrive they must be burned to death; or, if he sprang, as others had, both he and the child would be drowned, for he was no swimmer.

The little arms were twined about his neck, the pale cheek rested confidently against his own, but the brave child did not tremble.

"O my God, is there no help?" cried the despairing father, as the flames swept nearer, and he felt that his present position could be held but a little longer.

"Here, give the child to me, and I will save her," and turning quickly, Mr. Durant stood face to face with a stranger who had a life-preserver in his hand.

"Quick! there is no time to be lost! The child can have my life-preserver, and it will float her easily. Yonder is another ship; I have been watching it for the last five minutes. It will reach us in half an hour at the most. There, that is fastened securely. Now, little girl, I am going to throw you into the water. You are not afraid?"

"No, no; but papa?"

The father caught her frantically in his arms.

"My darling Eva, you may never see your father again; but do not fear—God will guard you, and somebody will find you and take care of you. If you never see papa again, remember he is in heaven with mamma."

"Has she no relatives?" asked the stranger.

"None in this country; I am from England, and am travelling for her health."

"Take that pin from your bosom and fasten it to her clothing."

"Heaven help you for the thought," said the father; and in another moment the square and compass was glistening on the bosom of the child, and the stranger took her from her father's arms, saying:

"I am stronger than you; she must be cast beyond the reach of these poor drowning wretches, or they will rob her of her life-preserver;"

The white drapery fluttered through the air, and sank below the waves; then rising, it floated lightly away.

James turned to the stranger with tearful eyes.

"May God bless you and preserve you, noblest of men. But you, as well as myself, must be lost."

"No, I am a good swimmer, and here is a piece of board with which you can sustain yourself until relief arrives."

The father cast another glance at the white speck floating rapidly away, and with an inward "God preserve her!" sprang into the sea, followed by the stranger; but the two floated in different directions, and they saw each other no more.

Two hours later, James Durant awoke, as from the sleep of death, and found himself in the cabin of a strange ship, with kind and sympathizing faces all around; in a moment he had realized all that had passed, and said, eagerly, though feebly:

"My child, little Eva; is she safe?"

There was no response, and a low moan escaped the father's lips.

"Courage, sir," said a lady with tearful eyes, "some of the passengers were saved by another ship."

The father's countenance lighted.

"God grant that she may be safe."

Mr. Durant recovered his usual strength in a few hours, and sought among the saved for the stranger who had proved himself so true a Masonic Brother, but he was not to be found.

"He must be on the other ship," said Mr. Durant, and he will care for Eva."

Both ships were at port the following day, but although Mr. Durant found the stranger who had befriended him, and who proved to be a Mr. Wadsworth, from a southern city, Eva was seen by no one, and given up as lost.

CHAPTER II.

"Here, wife, is a child that has just been washed upon the beach. She is cold and stiff, but I think she is not dead. Let us have some warm flannels immediately, and tell Thomas to run for Dr. Hunt."

It was long before the quivering lashes and feeble fluttering of the heart gave token that success would crown the efforts of Eva's rescuers; but, by-and-by, the lids parted, and revealed two large, liquid sky-blue eyes that wandered from face to face in a bewildered way, and then closed wearily.

"I fear she will not recover very rapidly," said the doctor. "She has a delicate constitution, and will require the best of care."

"Poor child!" said Mrs. Turner, "I do not wonder she is nearly dead; but who can she be? Some terrible accident must have occurred at sea."

"You had better examine her clothing," said the doctor; perhaps you may find some clue to her relations."

Mrs. Turner lifted the gossamer white dress, and turned it over and over. The square and compass placed there by Mr. Durant flashed upon the eyes of all at once. The doctor and Mr. Turner looked at each other, but neither spoke, and Mrs. Turner did not notice the tear that glistened in her husband's eyes.

The doctor's fears that Eva would not recover rapidly proved to be well founded; days and weeks of fever succeeded in awakening her to life, during which she talked incoherently of "papa" and "poor mamma," and of the "burning ship," and of "hunger." She finally awoke to consciousness, and asked many questions as to where she was and how she came in the dark room, and who were those who attended her, but Dr. Hunt forbade her being questioned until she was stronger.

How interested were all in the little convalescent, whom the elements had cast into the little seaboard town! The ladies declared that never before did a child possess such lovely eyes or such beautiful curls, while the gentlemen seemed no less interested, and brought her gifts of everything that might please her childish fancy.

"My dear little girl," said Dr. Hunt, when Eva was at length able to ride out, "will you tell me your name?"

"Eva," said the child; "I thought you knew it."

"Yes, I know your name is Eva, but I want to know the rest of your name—your father's name."

"Eva Durant. Mr. Durant is my papa."

"Yes, I want you to tell me all you can remember about you father and mother."

Eva's eyes filled with tears.

"Oh, sir, my mamma died and went to live with the angels, and I do not know where papa is. He said if I never saw him again I must know he had gone to mamma."

"Where were you when he told you this?"

"On the ship; and oh, the fire burned me so; and papa held me in his arms until a strange man took me and tied something under my arms and threw me into the water, and I have not seen papa since. Oh, sir, can you tell me where he is?"

"No, dear child; but perhaps we may yet find him."

And this was all that Eva's new friend could discover. It was plain she had come from the ship which had been burned a few weeks before; that she had been cast upon the sea, and floated to the shore; but where was her father? Had he been saved, and was he searching for his child?

Every possible effort was now made to find him. The circumstances of the case, with the statement of the child, was published fully in the newspapers of the neighbouring cities, but the grief-stricken father, believing his child to be lost, had sailed a week before for Europe, and it soon became settled in the minds of Eva's protectors that he had perished. But the little one still prattled about her "papa" and said

he would come by-and-by; those who believed differently would not pain her by contradiction.

The square and compass that had been found upon her clothing was regarded as a powerful appeal from a Mason to his brethren to care for his child. So it came to pass that Eva became, as it were, the special charge of Hiram Lodge, No. 93. Mr. Turner would gladly have taken the entire care of the little waif, and the wealthy Senator W— requested to be allowed to adopt her as his daughter, but the Brethren in Lodge assembled, declared by a vote that Eva should be reared, educated, and protected by the Lodge, and that as Providence had placed her in Brother Turner's house, that should be her home.

And so years went by, and Eva became a healthy, joyous child, fitting here and there, and everywhere meeting the warmest of welcomes. The Masonic Hall was but a few rods from Mr. Turner's residence, and Eva often went with him as far as the door, and then returned alone, always bidding the Tyler "take good care of Pa Turner and send him home early."

CHAPTER III.

The six years that followed the death of his wife and the loss of his child passed wearily to James Durant.

He visited nearly every country in the Old World, seeking among scenes of natural beauty and grandeur as well as of historic interest, for the mental rest which could never be found.

Once more he turned his steps toward America, and sought his Masonic friend Wadsworth. Finding that gentleman about setting out with his family for the Atlantic coast, Mr. Durant accepted the invitation to accompany them to Saratoga and Niagara, then to New York, where, leaving the ladies, Mr. Wadsworth and Mr. Durant wandered from town to town along the coast, enjoying the beauty of the scenery and the quiet hospitality that greeted them more than the crowded hotels and the fashionable style of the watering-places. Fancy, and the kind hand of Providence, at length led them to the little town of B—, and the second evening after their arrival they visited the Masonic Lodge. A warm welcome was extended to these Brethren from such distant homes, and both were invited to address the Lodge. Mr. Durant said:

"Brethren: I have traveled much and long. I have found Masonic sympathy in every part of the globe, and everywhere is Masonry substantially the same. I can hardly tell where I reside. The world seems to be my home, as I remain but a short time in any town or country, but my name is recorded in an English Lodge. I love my English Brethren, for they first brought me from darkness to light, and I love English soil, for in it sleeps the wife of my youth. But I love American soil, also, for here have I found the warmest of welcomes, the kindest of brethren. And, too, my own child is sleeping in American waters, even beneath the very waves that wash the shores of your beautiful village. Six years have passed since this dear friend and brother robbed himself of his life-preserver that my little Eva might perhaps escape, and we hoped the elements might be kind, and that Heaven would send her relief, but she was never heard of more."

The voice of Mr. Durant was quivering with emotion, and unable to speak further, he seated himself, and covered his face with his hands.

Glances of surprise and pleasure were cast from one to another among the Brethren of Hiram Lodge. No one spoke, however, but all eyes were turned upon the Master, Mr. Turner. For a moment he seemed reflecting; then taking a slip of paper from the Secretary, he wrote:

"Mrs. Turner—Do not allow Eva to retire until I return home; tell her I am going to bring a strange gentleman who wishes to see her."

And, calling the Junior Deacon, Mr. Turner gave him the note, saying, in a low voice: "Take this note to Mrs. Turner immediately."

"Why, Eva," said Mrs. Turner, when she had read the message, "you are going to have company. A strange gentleman is at the lodge-room who wishes to see you."

"Who can it be?"

Eva looked perplexed and thoughtful. Suddenly her cheeks flushed, her eyes lighted, and clapping her little hands, she sprang to her feet, and exclaimed:

"Oh, it must be papa! No one else would wish to see me; no one in the world," and before Mrs. Turner comprehended the child's interpretation, she had passed the threshold and was flitting through the moonlight toward the Lodge Room. The Tyler looked amazed when Eva burst into the ante-room, her cheeks burning, her eyes flashing with joy and excitement.

"Do not stop me; I am going in!" she exclaimed. But the inner door was fastened, and the impatient Eva nearly cried with vexation.

"Wait a moment," said the Tyler, who, having heard nothing of what had transpired within, was at a loss to account for the strange conduct of the child; "wait a moment, and I will send your request to Mr. Turner. He will come out and see you."

"I shall not wait! I do not want to see Mr. Turner. I want to see my papa."

"The child is crazy, that is evident," said the perplexed Tyler to himself; but calling out the Deacon, he bade him say that Eva was there and had determined to get into the lodge room.

The Deacon, went to the East, and delivered his message in a low tone, and a moment afterward moved "that the craft be called from labor to refreshment."

"Now," said Mr. Turner, "tell the Tyler to let her come in."

And Eva did come, or rather bounded, into the hall, more beautiful in her excitement than ever before. She advanced to the centre of the room and stood beside the altar; half poised upon the tiny foot, she scanned rapidly the faces of all. Her eager eyes soon detected the strangers, who were seated behind each other, and for a moment she seemed irresolute, then darting forward with a glad cry, she threw her arms about the neck of Mr. Durant, crying:

"Oh, papa! my dear papa! you have come home at last! You were not burned in the ship!"

We will not attempt to paint the scene further, but will leave our readers to imagine the joy of the fond father, and also leave them to decide whether the tears that wet the cheeks of the Brethren of Hiram Lodge were caused by sympathy with the happiness of their little charge, or grief that they should lose one whom they all loved.

AN INCIDENT AT SEA.

For the "Craftsman."

The gallant, well trimmed "Seabird" was ploughing her way through the broad Atlantic, the sails were full, the sky without a cloud and the sun in its glory reflected upon the mighty deep, making the broad sea glitter like a mine of jewels, and the white foam like ungathered diamonds.

The "Seabird" was conveying home to the shores of Old England the Honorable Walter Aubrey and family. They were a few days sail from A———where Mr. Aubrey had been residing several months fulfilling commissions from government. The family group were now upon the deck, seated between her brother and Mrs. Aubrey was Rosamond Aubrey, dear Aunt Rose, as the children named her, leaning upon her was little Archie, Mr. Aubrey's eldest child a joyous handsome little fellow, the plaything of all on board. Beside him was his little sister Sophia, a pretty child of three or four summers, one more completed the family group, this was dear Uncle William, a brother of Mr. Aubrey. Born upon the raging element, William looked upon the ship as his cradle, the ocean as his home, and the sweetest music to his ear was the roll of the billows.

He was now reclining underneath the cool awning, certainly a little more than half asleep, not very far however, had he wandered into the land of dreams, when little Archie came running to him with two large branches of sea-weed formed into rude wreaths, and holding little Sophia by the hand said, "Wake up Uncle Willie and fulfil your promise."

"What promise, dear Archie!" you said dear Uncle, urged the little boy that you would crown me child of the ocean with the first branch of the sea-forest the waves threw up, and Lieutenant Murray has been kind enough to make these for me, so now Uncle we want you to come and crown us, "Please make sister a Princess."

"Well Archie, said his Uncle I'll crown you King, "Oh my no, said the little boy gravely, there is but one who can rule the ocean, did you never hear of King Canute, Uncle, he could not rule the waves, how can I."

The Commander of the "Seabird" stood by gazing kindly upon the little ones, the Lieutenant and other officers had drawn near to witness the ceremony, suddenly came a shout from aloft, a boat a boat, "where away!" asked the officer of the watch, "far to starboard", was the reply.

The Captain addressed a few words to Mr. Aubrey, orders were promptly given to the ship hands, and a favorable sea soon brought the "Seabird" bearing down upon the little speck far away on the billows, Lieutenant Murray, had taken his station in an elevated position with his telescope in hand, and soon announced that at least one human being lay in the little boat. All eyes were strained, and hearts were beating high with wild conjectures and generous emotions. At length the ship's boat was lowered and William Aubrey, Murray, and a band of stout hearts started away in their benevolent errand, the boats neared, motionless, apparently lifeless in the bottom of the boat lay a man, his clothes drenched with sea water, his cheek pale as marble, and his arms folded underneath the pressure of a heavy cloak, which encircled him.

William placed his watch over the colourless lips and found he yet

breathed. He then gently removed the folds of the mantle about the strangers breast when to his amazement he beheld reclining on the bosom of the dying man a lovely child, but sleeping so still, so passionless, so pure that the watchers could scarcely be convinced that so calm a repose was not the long sleep of death. Gently as with woman's care those rough hardy sailors bore the stranger to the cabin of the "Seabird." The evening sun was giving its parting benediction, to the blue waters when they bore the wanderer to a home on the ocean, noble and brave men vied with other in their care and attention, and woman's gentle hands ministered to the afflicted ones, so strangely thrown upon their care, midnight drew in, no word had passed the stranger's lips, as he lay gliding slowly into the arms of death.

Did you find any papers, said the Doctor to Mr. Aubrey, or any clue by which we may ascertain who our patient is? nothing decisive was the low reply, there was a small pocket book, in it was written in English "Albert of Castile," in another place there was written in Spanish, "thou art safe my Isabella from the pangs of persecution and tyranny, "Oh!" when shall thy child and husband again meet thee" farther on was written in pencil, and in English,

Thy Albert and thy child,
Stil borne by brezes mild,
Or rocked by tempest wild,
Onward they sail ;

We may be sure, continued Mr. Aubrey, to his breathless listeners that this is a mournful history, Heaven only knows"—he was checked by a deep sigh from the invalid, morning dawned the first streak of day gleamed in upon the cabin as if to mock with its sunny glance the solemn faces of the watchers. At length a low murmur broke from the couch.

Mr. Aubrey bent forward.

"My orphan child, murmured the dying man."

"Has found friends, said Mr. Aubrey."

"Ah, groaned the sufferer, the rock, the deep."

"Oh no! whispered Mr. Aubrey, a father, a mother, a home."

And then between these two men, forming as they did under the circumstances such a striking contrast, between them passed a sign, that sign of distress was quickly responded to, and they were ONE, not cradled upon the same hearth, not taught by the same mother, strangers to each other till that moment, they realised a glimpse of that glorious unity, "all ye are brethren."

Once more the pale lips unclosed "My child!" Mrs. Aubrey lifted the sleeping child to receive his father's last kiss. I die happy he murmured, and the spirit returned to God who gave it.

Floods of tears fell that summer morning upon the face of the beautiful orphan, eyes unused to tears, unbarred their flood gates, prayers many and hearty rose silently to Heaven that morning. "for all that travel by land and water." Christ's unrivaled words rose to the lips of more than one of those who trod the "Seabird's deck." As ye would that men should do unto you, do ye so unto them.

Standing over the dead body, Mr. Aubrey lifted the orphan child in his arms and pledged himself before God and man to be a father to the fatherless, and to prove as far as frail human nature could a brother born for adversity. Kissing the smiling baby he said "God do so to me and mine also, if aught but death part thee and me."

The hour of burial drew nigh, there was no open grave, no freshly turned mound, no waving plumes, but the glorious flags of Old England folded the stranger and drooped mournfully over his head. ¶

The ship's bell pealed solemnly across the waves. All hands were summoned upon deck, and mournfully did the words fall upon the ears of all who heard them, "We commit this body to the deep."

Years have rolled on since that mournful hour, and the happy home of the Aubrey family is yet unbroken by change or death, more have been added to the little group, a lovely home is that. In the small ground appointed for a cemetery stands one marble monument, there is no sacred dust beneath it, waiting the Archangel's trumpet, for he whose death it commemorates lies far away in the arms of the Atlantic. Upon the face of that simple tribute is inscribed, "to the memory of our Brother who died at Sea."

This beautiful spot is a favorite resort of the little ones and their young companions, and Archie now grown into a handsome youth of sixteen is often urged to relate what he so distinctly remembers the tale of the burial at sea. The pale orphan Albert weeps, but soft arms are around him, warm lips upon his cheek, and gentle voices assure him of love, of deep and true, and lasting for ever.

HARRIET ANNIE.

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

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BY A. G. MACKEX, M. D.

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CHAPTER XXIII.

OF QUESTIONS ON CALLING FOR THE YEAS AND NAYS.

In all American legislative assemblies it is provided, that on any pending question a vote by yeas and nays may be called for; that is, that the vote of each member shall be openly given and recorded in the journal. The object of this proceeding is to secure the responsibility of the representative to his constituents, who are thus enabled to know how he voted, and to call him to an account, should he have voted contrary to the views or principles which he was elected to represent.

It is evident that there can be no necessity for such a proceeding in a Masonic Lodge, where every member is independent and responsible only to God and his own conscience for the votes which he may give. To call for the yeas and nays being, then, repugnant to the principles upon which the Masonic institution is founded, if a motion or call for that purpose were to be made, the Master of the Lodge should very properly rule it out of order.

But a different system prevails in conducting the business of Grand Lodges, which consist of representatives, responsible to a constituency whose instructions they are bound to obey. Hence in these bodies, a vote by Lodges, which may be considered as equivalent to a vote by yeas and nays, is allowed and sometimes prescribed by positive rule.

The calling in Grand Lodges for the vote by Lodges must in all cases, where the constitution of the body has provided no special rule on the subject, be governed by the general parliamentary law which regulates the vote by yeas and nays.

Any member may demand to vote by Lodges; and if there is a pro-

vision in the rules of the Grand Lodge which requires a certain number to concur in the demand, it is the duty of the Grand Master or presiding officer to ascertain whether there is that requisite number. This would be most conveniently done by calling on those who were in favor of the vote by Lodges to rise, when the votes would be counted by the Senior Deacon.

The demand for a vote by Lodges may be made at any time, not only during the voting on the question in another form, but even after the decision has been made by the chair, provided the Grand Lodge has not proceeded to other business.

If a demand for the vote by the Lodges has been once made and refused by the Grand Lodge, it is not in order to make the demand a second time on the same question. But, the demand or motion, for a vote by Lodges having been negatived, it is in order for any one who voted in the majority—that is, on the negative side—to move for a reconsideration of the vote, which preliminary question will be settled by a mere majority vote.

While the call is being made, and at any time before the decision is announced by the chair, it is permitted to any member to change his vote.

The parliamentary rule is, that no one shall be permitted to vote on a call for the yeas and nays who was not "within the bar;" that is, in the house when the question was stated. But I do not think that this rule has ever been rigidly enforced in Grand Lodges, where every member is permitted to vote on such an occasion, if present during the call, although he may have been absent when the question was stated.

CHAPTER XXIV.

OF QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGES.

In all parliamentary or legislative bodies there occur certain questions which relate to matters affecting the dignity of the assembly or the rights and privileges of some of its members, and these are hence called "questions of privilege." Such, for instance, are motions arising out of, or having relation to a quarrel between two of the members, an assault upon any member, charges affecting the integrity of the assembly or any of its members, or any other matters of a similar character. Questions referring to any of these matters take precedence of all other business, and hence are always in order.

It is impossible to make a complete enumeration of all these questions, and parliaments, congresses, and legislatures have generally been guided by the precedents supplied by the decisions of former sessions in deciding what are questions of privilege.

The analogies existing in many respects between a Masonic Lodge and a legislative assembly leave no doubt in my mind that in the former, as in the latter, questions of privilege may arise. The only difficulty to be encountered is as to what matters can occur in a Lodge or Chapter that would properly give rise to questions of privilege. But as any proposition that involves a question of privilege is to be considered in preference to any other business, it is important that the presiding officer, whose duty it is to decide the point of order, should have some guide by which he may arrive at a correct decision. The following list, although necessarily incomplete, is presented as an approximation to a

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~~ 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.

The second, or motions for adjournment, it has been heretofore shown, are unknown in the usages or in the parliamentary law of Masonry, and may therefore be dismissed without further discussion. The third and fourth will constitute the subject-matter of succeeding chapters.

CHAPTER XXVI.

OF THE MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION.

By the original parliamentary law, a motion for reconsideration is not a privileged question. Indeed, in the English House of Commons, whence our laws of parliament have derived their origin, the question of reconsideration is unknown. There a question, having been once carried, cannot be questioned again, but must stand as the judgment of the house; and when a bill is once rejected, another of the same substance cannot be proposed at the same session. This rule has often led to much inconvenience, and many expedients have been resorted to obviate its effects; such as to pass an act to explain, or to enforce and make more effectual, or to rectify the mistake, of an act which has been once, however unwisely, passed.

Nothing could possibly be more absurd than such a regulation, which forbid all change of opinion; and therefore the American House of Representatives has adopted a rule, that a motion for reconsideration, on the same day or the day after, is always in order, and shall take precedence of all other motions, except motions to adjourn. Hence, in this country, the motion for reconsideration has become a privileged question. -a

It is, however regulated by certain rules, which prescribe the time when, the person by whom, and the questions on which, it may be proposed.

1. The motion for reconsideration must be made, says the congressional rule, on the same day or the day after. The operation of this rule in a Grand Lodge or Grand Chapter must evidently be the same. In a Lodge where the session does not continue beyond a day, or rather an evening, it is evident that the motion for reconsideration, to be within this rule, must be made at the same communication, at any time before the Lodge is closed. Whatever has been done at one communication cannot be reconsidered at a subsequent, any more than an act passed by Congress at one session can be reconsidered at another. If it is deemed advisable at a future communication to do away with a resolution which had been adopted at a preceding one, the proper motion would be not to reconsider, but to rescind or repeal.

2. No one who had voted in the minority on any question can move a reconsideration. The right of doing so is restricted to those who had voted in the majority. And the reason of this obvious: If it were permitted that those who had been defeated might seek to renew the contest in another trial of strength, then the time of the assembly might be wasted by the repeated efforts of the few, who were discontented, to obtain a reconsideration and a new discussion of questions which had been already settled by the many to their own satisfaction.

3. The motion of reconsideration can only be made in reference to matters that remain within the control of the meeting. Thus when an appropriation has been made, and under its authority the Treasurer has paid out the money, it will be too late to move a reconsideration of

the resolution making the appropriation. Indeed, where the order consequent on a resolution has only been commenced and not yet executed in full, strict parliamentary law deems it improper to move a reconsideration, although the completion of the order may be prevented by a resolution to discharge or rescind so much of it as yet remains unexecuted. But this would not be technically a reconsideration of the question.

There are several rules in relation to motions for reconsideration which require notice:

1. A motion for reconsideration is not debatable, if the question proposed to be reconsidered is not. Cushing (1272) lays down a different rule, but in the House of Representatives, where the practice of reconsideration first arose, it has been frequently decided that debate cannot be allowed on a motion to reconsider a question that was not itself debatable.

2. Although an original proposition may require for its adoption a vote of two-thirds or three-fourths, the motion for its reconsideration may be carried by mere majority.

3. When a motion for reconsideration is made within the proper limit of time, and the consideration of it is postponed to a day beyond that time, if then it is withdrawn by the mover, it cannot be renewed: the time for making such a motion has passed. But here it must be remarked, that if the session of the body, in which such motion for reconsideration has been postponed should terminate without any action on such postponed motion, it will fail. Thus in a Grand Lodge, if a motion to reconsider a question should be postponed to the third day of the session, and the Grand Lodge should close without acting on the motion for reconsideration, it would fall to the ground, and the original proposition would remain in force. This is founded on an opinion expressed by two speakers of the House of Representatives, that "where the term of the members expires without acting on the motion to reconsider, for the want of time or inclination, the motion of course fails and leaves the original proposition operative." (Barelay, 164.)

4. When a motion for reconsideration has been decided either in the affirmative or negative, or while it is still pending, no second motion for reconsideration of the same proposition can be made. But if, on reconsideration, the proposition has been altered in form by new amendments, a motion for reconsideration will then be in order. To permit the same proposition, after reconsideration, to be again reconsidered, would be an idle waste of time, and an unprofitable renewal of altercation.

5. A motion for reconsideration may be postponed, definitely, or indefinitely, or laid upon the table. If postponed definitely, or to a day certain, it is subject to the provisions already mentioned in a preceding paragraph. If postponed, indefinitely, or laid upon the table, the effect is to kill it, and to leave the original proposition in force. Indeed, in the House of Representatives, when it is desired to put a measure out of all reach of danger, it is an expedient often resorted to for the friends of the measure to move a reconsideration, and immediately thereon to move to lay the motion for reconsideration on the table. The effect of this proceeding is, that no second motion for reconsideration can be made, and the first cannot be taken up out of its order, which it is not probable will be reached, and the original proposition is thus secured as

an accomplished and unchangeable fact. This is recognized parliamentary practice, and I see no reason why it should not be pursued in the proceedings of Masonic bodies.

6. The first effect of a motion for reconsideration is, that during its pendency the operation of the original motion is suspended. Thus a resolution having been adopted to execute a certain act, and a motion to reconsider that act having been made, the act cannot be executed until the motion for reconsideration has been disposed of.

7. The effect of the motion to reconsider, if it is carried, is to place the original proposition in precisely the position it occupied a moment before its adoption. We are not carried back to the form of the original proposition when it was first introduced, but to the form which it had assumed at the time that the final vote on its adoption was taken. Thus, we will suppose that a resolution has been proposed, which we will call A; to this B has been offered as an amendment, so as to give it the form of A B; and to this again another amendment, C, has been proposed, so as to make it assume the form of A B C. Both amendments being carried, the vote is taken on the proposition in its amended form A B C, and, this being adopted, a motion for reconsideration is made and carried. Now, the effect of this will be present to the assembly for discussion, not the original proposition A, but the proposition in its amended form, A B C. The motion for reconsideration applies not to all the preliminary proceedings, but only to the final vote. So, in parliamentary practice, when a bill has been read a third time and passed a motion for reconsideration, if it prevails, places the bill in the position of having received its second reading, and not the first or the second, but only the third reading is brought by the reconsideration before the house to be again acted upon.

8. When the motion for reconsideration has been carried, the original proposition to be reconsidered comes up immediately for action. It may be discussed, (if it is a debatable question,) amended, postponed, laid on the table, or subjected to any other operation to which it was liable during its original passage. And the effect of a successful motion for reconsideration is such, that even if the original proposition were not then before the assembly, but, having being adopted, other measures had been acted on, it comes up immediately for action. In Congress it would at once take the place to which it belongs in the general order of business, or would go over to the next day on which business of the same description would be in order. But in a Lodge, whose session seldom exceeds a few hours, no such nicety of arrangement can be observed, and the discussion of the proposition ordered to be reconsidered must immediately follow upon the vote for reconsideration.

All that has been said in this chapter refers to the reconsideration of motions or resolutions. The reconsideration of the ballot is an entirely different thing, and will form the subject of the succeeding chapter.

The Grand Lodge of Tennessee has decided that non-affiliation does not deprive a brother of his individual rights as a Mason, but only of such additional rights as are acquired by Lodge membership, while it urges affiliation as a duty. It also recommends that the Grand Master gives his official opinion on no question except such as actually exists before some Subordinate Lodge, and which has been certified to him.

THE SECRET BALLOT.

The secret ballot, and acceptance by—unanimous vote constitutes the impregnable bulwark of the Masonic Order. These conditions are fundamental, and unalterable, and without them Freemasonry could not exist at all. They are a positive prohibition of discord in their inception, and in theory they can produce nothing but harmony. In practice however, they are not entirely exempt from the fate of other beautiful theories—that is, they sometimes make a partial failure. Such isolated cases, while they prove the rule, and demonstrate the truth they seem to deny, are exceedingly troublesome whenever they arise in a Lodge. They are entirely beyond the reach of law or discipline, for the reason that they take refuge behind the impregnable bulwark and really abuse its sanctity while the offence is palpable and the offender is safe. Now, since, the ballot is secret, how do we know certainly there is an offender?

Every member of the Lodge exercises his rights to vote, and by the condition, no member's vote can be called in question. We do not certainly know that any one abuses his principles at the ballot-box, but we do know that times come in the history of some Lodges, when for months, even years, a clear ballot is unknown. This proves either that the Lodge is surrounded altogether by bad material, or that somebody inside of it has determined not to be satisfied with any applicant who may present himself. In either case it is hard for the Lodge to bear its situation patiently, and resist the impulse to surrender its charter.

Some plain words on what may be termed the abuses of the secret ballot are needed. No Mason of any experience will deny that these abuses exist; scarcely any one but has known some palpable instance of wrong perpetrated through the ballot-box. A sacred right to the many, has apparently given a few the right to do wrong, which admit of no redress. To remove the wrong would be to root up the right. In our immutable constitutions the Great Charter of Freemasonry itself, was locked up for safety, and the key purposely thrown away and lost. Conceived and brought forth in truth, it admits of no change but growth, and the natural development of its vital organism, and it was intrusted to pure hands. These conditions preserved, it is perfect, but in its contact and struggle with human passions its very perfections are sometimes distorted into blemishes, and made the means of injustice. It is to be deeply regretted that there are those in the Order who are so far from being Masons as to seize on the ballot-box as an instrument of vengeance.

Humiliating as this admission is, it is nevertheless an honest confession, safer to make than to withhold, for it may be the beginning of repentance and reform. The evil is not wide-spread, nor is it contagious, but it roots itself like a cancer in the body of a Lodge where it exists, and slowly but surely wastes it away. Some of our Lodges are now suffering from it, and from the highest enjoyment of health, peace, and prosperity they have been plunged into the depths of weakness and despondency. Their energy and activity are lost, and they lie torpid and languishing, as it were, pulseless on the bed of death.

All this, simply because one member, perhaps, has been disappointed in his aspirations for office; annoyed by the rejection of the petition of a personal friend or relative: or because some accused brother was not expelled. Forgetful of the high power he wields for good or evil:

oblivious of his duties as a Mason, and even forswearing his honor as a man, he resorts to the revenge of the ballot-box, and hides himself behind its unquestionable right and inviolable secrecy. He strikes at the vitals of Masonic fellowship and from that moment the Lodge is dead.

Instances have occurred in which this destroying spirit assumed a bolder attitude and proclaimed in the Lodge and out of it, in private and public, on the streets and highways, that no more work should be done in—Lodge, as every application would be black-balled—the dissatisfied Mason himself, announced that he would do the deed. In such cases there is speedy redress in charges of “gross unmasonic conduct” and expulsion from the sanctuary so wantonly profaned.

There is some merit of hardihood or even bravery in the latter exhibition of rage, for it discloses an enemy who lays himself open to attack, and challenges combat. It is the covert foe from which the Lodge suffers most. He is truly a serpent in a dove’s nest, and as he enjoys his revenges in secrecy, wherever he is, or whoever he may be, he is not likely to charge that the epithet above applied personally and particularly to him. He will know it himself, and keep it among his own Masonic secrets.

Let him keep the secret, and let him resolve henceforth to be a man and a Mason. Let him realize, if he never did before, the essential purity of the thing he has soiled and the solemnity of the privileges with which he has been trifling, and he will not have read these words in vain. He will thereafter use the secret ballot as contemplated in the design and structure of Freemasonry—the guard of purity, the keynote of harmony and the soul of honor. He will feel himself free from the tyranny of petty spite, and once more a reasonable, responsible, independent man. He will realize with a keen sensibility the truth in these words:

“ ‘Tis pleasant to have a giant’s strength,
But tyrannous to use it like a giant.”

—*The Freemason.*

SHOULD A PETITION EVER BE RETURNED?

The question involves more points for thought than the mere surface of it indicates. The nature and intent of a petition, its pre-requisites and consequences, all come in review, from the very character of the institution to remote results.

Masonry seeks no votaries—no initiates. Our theory is, that whoever petitions must do it at his own request and of his own free will and accord. His opinion of the institution must be favorable, and it should have been so a long time. If Freemasons act as our tenets require, the opinion of the applicant should be based upon his reading, familiarity with our rules and laws, acquaintance with our members, and a comparison of them with others. Whoever presents or recommends a petition, thereby vouches for the good character and moral worth of the applicant. The petitioner is aware that he must undergo the ordeal of investigation and the scrutiny of the ballot at three different times. If the applicant be accepted, the petition has no further importance; it is filed away in the archives of the lodge.

In case the petitioner is rejected, the petition becomes important in the future.

It has been the general practice to return the petition, with the money accompanying it, to the applicant, in such cases. But that was simply the petition, and nothing more. No matter of record went with it. But the informalities attending reference and report, fees and balloting, have wrought a change in the old and loose system of verbal reports and hasty ballotings. The petitioner is scrutinized in the very petition he signs. In Illinois and many other jurisdictions, he must state whether he has ever petitioned any other lodge, and if he has, when and where, and all the circumstances connected with it. The back of the petition shows the amount of the fee accompanying the petition, without which it *cannot be received*; the names of the brethren who are charged with the duty of special and thorough inquiry into the antecedents and present standing of the petitioner; and lastly, their report. All this has become positively necessary as a matter of caution, and with reference to the future. Everything may result favorably to the candidate until tried by the ballot. An unfavorable report necessarily results in rejection. But nine-tenths of the rejections follow favorable reports, and nineteen-twentieths of these rejections are right. If the candidate petitions again, there should be the petition to verify his signature, to show what was done, with dates and facts. Aside from the ballot, the petition is a record in itself. And it is wise and safe to be so. Being in the archives, it avoids the unnecessary accumulation of papers and a search of the records, not always at hand. These changes involve a necessity for change in the matter of returning a petition. There never was any general law to return a petition, and the usage was ever a dangerous one, and has often produced painful and mischievous consequences. All that the rejected petitioner is entitled to know is the bare fact of rejection, and with that knowledge he should receive his money.

But it may be said that a return of a petition with a favorable report, may work no harm. In the present orderly and correct mode of doing business in our lodges, we do not concede any such result. What the petition may disclose is not for the eyes of the profane. All matter of record belongs to the Fraternity, unless otherwise ordered by the lodge, or by some superior power. Hence we say, that the custom of returning any petition, after it has been referred, should be abandoned, and the petition held to be, as it undoubtedly is, the property of the lodge.—*Masonic Travel.*

MASONIC.—The installation of officers of Barton Lodge No. 6, C. R., District, officiating, assisted by V. W. Bros. R. Brierly and W. T. took place on St. John's Day. R. W. Bro. E. Mitchell, D. D. G. M., Hamilton Munday, W. Bros. H. Murray and C. R. Smith. The following officers were installed:

W. Bro. Gavin Stewart, W. M.; V. W. Bro. R. Brierley, I. P. M.; Bro. S. F. Lazier, S. W.; Bro. R. S. Kennedy, J. W.; A. McCallum Chaplain; Bro. E. S. Whipple, Treasurer; Bro. J. F. McClure, Secretary; Bro. Chas. Davidson, Senior Deacon; Bro. J. G. Burkholder, Junior Deacon; Bro. G. F. DeVine, Organist; Bro. Wm. Gibson, I. G.; Bros. Russell, J. H. Land, A. Leathhead, Stewards; Bro. J. B. Rousseaux, D. of C.; Bro. W. W. Summers, Tyler; V. W. Bros. W. T. Munday, T. H. Bartindale Auditors.

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF GRAND LODGE.

The Seventeenth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. M. of Canada was opened at the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, Hamilton, on Wednesday, the 19th July. About 325 delegates were present, representing 220 Lodges. In the temporary absence of M. W. Bro. Jas. Seymour, G. M., Grand Lodge was opened in due form by M. W. Bro. A. A. Stevenson, P. G. M., assisted by the following Grand officers :

R. W. Bro. R. Tully,	as D. G. M.
" " " A. McLean,	G. S. W.
" " " R. P. Stephens,	G. J. W.
" " " Rev. V. Clementi,	as G. Chaplain.
" " " Wm. McCabe,	as G. Treasurer.
" " " J. B. Bickel,	G. Registrar.
" " " Thos. B. Harris,	G. Secretary.
" " " D. McLellan,	as G. S. D.
V. " " H. G. Summers,	G. J. D.
" " " C. Bennett,	G. S. of W.
" " " Jas. Gibson,	G. D. of C.
" " " J. J. Mason,	Asst. G. S.
" " " C. Sharpe,	as Asst. G. D. of C.
" " " W. Nivin,	as G. Organist.
" " " W. W. Summers,	G. Tyler.

The usual motion accepting the minutes as read and confirmed having been passed, and the Rules and regulations for the government of Grand Lodge read, the several Reports of the District Deputy Grand Masters were read and referred to the Board of General Purposes.

The following reports were then submitted by R. W. Bro. Henry Macpherson, Vice-President of the Board of General Purposes.

FINANCE AND AUDIT—ANNUAL REPORT.

The Board of General Purposes has the honor to report for the information of Grand Lodge that the annual meeting was held in the city of Toronto on the 6th day of Feb. last. The Books of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, together with the accounts, statements, and vouchers, for the financial year ending 31st December, 1871, were submitted and carefully examined, and the Board has pleasure in stating that they were found to be in every respect correct. The following is a statement of the finances of Grand Lodge at that date.

The Receipts for the past year amount to \$10,346.64, derived from the following sources :

Certificates	\$2634 00
Dues	4747 13
Fees	1802 50
Dispensations	524 00
Warrants	240 00
Constitutions	390 35
Proceedings	8 16

Total \$10,346 64

The position of Grand Lodge funds at the close of the year, as shown by the Grand Treasurer's statement, was as follows :

General Fund,	\$26034 96
Asylum, Trust Fund	560 31
Benevolent Fund Investment	11434 15
" " current	1306 14

\$44,455 56

Invested as follows :

Dominion Stock, bearing 6 per cent	\$28800 00
“ “ “ 5 per cent.....	10000 00
Middlesex Deb., “ 6 per cent.....	1600 00
Bank of Toronto, 1st July, 1871.....	736 31
“ “ Interest on Dominion Stock, accrued.....	144 00
Bank of Commerce, current act.....	3175 25

\$14,455 56

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure amounted to the sum of \$9892.18, the details of which have already been furnished to Lodges, in the published annual statements. It is proper, however, to say that of this sum no less than \$5479.39 was for transfers to Benevolent fund, including the \$2000 voted for relief of Chicago sufferers, so that the ordinary expenses of salaries, printing certificates, expenses of Board, &c., amounted to \$4412.79.

ACCOUNTS.

The Board have ordered the payment of accounts amounting to \$1251 22, the same having been carefully examined and found to be correct.

BENOVOLENCE.

The Board had submitted for consideration a large number of applications for pecuniary assistance, and made appropriations amounting in the aggregate to \$1340.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS.

No. 1. In the case of Bro. Saywright, standing over from the last meeting of the Board in consequence of the evidence being insufficient, as no evidence has been presented at this meeting, the Board requests the D. D. G. M. of the St. Clair District to see what evidence can be produced, and that the G. S. be instructed to notify the parties that unless evidence is produced on the first day of the meeting of the Board in July next, the Board will recommend to Grand Lodge that Bro. Saywright be restored to full Masonic standing, and in the meantime the meantime the suspension is removed.

No. 2. R. W. Bro. Franck having been summoned to show cause why he should not be expelled, and not having appeared, the Board recommends that unless he shows cause at the first meeting of the Board in July next, he be expelled from the craft.

No. 3. As to the communication of Bro. W. Lynn Smart respecting the Installation of Bro. H. W. Davis as W. M. of Ionic Lodge, No. 25, the Board considers that Bro. Davis had served the office of Warden for one year, and consequently was entitled to be installed as W. M. of that Lodge.

GRAND ORIENT OF FRANCE.

A letter having been received from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Orient of France, relative to the vote of \$250 by Grand Lodge towards the relief of the sufferers by the late Franco-Prussian war, the President of the Board was instructed to transmit to the Grand Orient the said sum of \$250. The receipt of the money has been acknowledged in a letter addressed to the Grand Secretary.

ASSISTANCE IN GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

The question of assistance in the office of Grand Secretary was

brought under the notice of your Board; and the sum allowed for this purpose was increased from \$500 to \$650.

THE CHICAGO FIRE.

The terrible calamity which befell the city of Chicago last year, and the universal sympathy which that calamity elicited throughout the civilized world, will be in the lively recollection of Grand Lodge. The M. W. the Grand Master, conceiving the case to be one in which the benevolence of Grand Lodge might and ought to be exercised, suggested to the President of the Board that the sum of two thousand dollars should be granted to the relief of the sufferings of masons and their families, the suggestion was concurred in and the money transmitted. The Board cordially approved of the proceedings, and sanctioned the grant. At the same time they express the opinion that it ought not to be drawn into a general precedent. The circumstances were so exceptional in their character, the calamity was such a sudden and terrible one, that every heart was stirred with sympathy towards the sufferers; and the Board with confidence submit their action in this matter to the approval of Grand Lodge.

INVESTMENT OF GRAND LODGE FUNDS.

In accordance with the request of Grand Lodge, the sum of \$10,000 has been invested in Dominion stock bearing five per cent. interest.

REPRINTING THE PROCEEDINGS.

The question of reprinting the proceedings of Grand Lodge from the commencement, has engaged the attention of the Board. Tenders have been asked for, on carefully prepared specifications, and have been issued to Lodges asking what number of, if any, copies would be required, and such returns have been received as will enable the Board to make a formal recommendation to Grand Lodge on the subject at its present communication.

The whole respectfully and fraternally submitted.

FINANCE AND AUDIT—SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT.

The Receipts for the six months ending 30th June, 1872, were as follows:

Certificates.....	1523 00
Dues.....	2591 72
Fees.....	987 50
Dispensations.....	371 00
Warrants.....	30 00
Constitutions.....	320 33
Proceedings.....	25
Total.....	<u>\$5824 30</u>

The Grand Treasurer's statement shows that the funds on hand 30th June, 1872, were \$47,630.56, invested as follows:

Dominion Stock, 6 per cent.....	28800 00
" " 5 per cent.....	10000 00
Middlesex Deb. 6 per cent.....	1600 00
Bank of Toronto, 31st Dec., 1871.....	880 31
Dominion Stock accrued interest.....	144 00
Bank of Commerce.....	6206 25
	<u>\$47630 56</u>

representing the following balances at credit of various accounts in the books of Grand Lodge :

General Fund	28251 70
Asylum Fund	5824 31
Benevolent Fund, Invested account	12468 81
" " Current account.....	1085 74
	<hr/>
	\$47630 56

Accounts amounting to \$777.98 were examined, and recommended for payment.

The Board recommend that \$5000 of the cash in the Canadian Bank of Commerce be invested in a permanent stock.

The Board is of opinion that it is unnecessary to audit the accounts in full at the semi-annual meeting of the Board, all that is required is for the Grand Secretary to shew the amount of money received and paid over to the Grand Treasurer, shewing his receipts for the same, as all accounts, books and vouchers for the whole year have to be examined and audited at the annual meeting.

MASONIC ASYLUM TRUST.

The Masonic Asylum Trust have to report that the amount in the Bank of Toronto on deposit, is now \$1058.66, having been increased last year by the sum of \$322.35, being for interest on Dominion stock and deposits, the former, at 6 and the latter at 4 per cent., as shown by the following statement :

Dr.—Balance last Annual Report.....	5536 31
Interest, Dominion Stock.....	288 00
" deposits.....	34 35
	<hr/>
Total.....	\$5358 66
Cr.—By Dominion Stock (amount \$4386.00).....	4800 00
Balance in Bank	1758 66
	<hr/>
Total.....	\$5358 66

The Trust regret that so little progress has been made in furtherance of the desirable object for which the fund has been created, but from information recently laid before the Trust, it is expected that a feasible proposal will be submitted to the Grand Lodge at its next session, which will merit its approval, and secure the cordial co-operation of the Brethren.

CONDITION OF MASONRY.

The Board has considered the reports of the D. D. G. M.'s of the St. Clair, London, Wilson, Huron, Wellington, Hamilton, Niagara, Toronto, Ontario, Prince Edward, St. Lawrence, Ottawa, Montreal and Bedford Districts, also the report on the Manitoba District.

These reports show a general healthy and prosperous condition of the craft throughout the whole country, a large increase in both lodges and members, and at the same time an increased desire to look carefully to the quality rather than the quantity of material used in the building.

The D. D. G. M.'s continue to show great industry in visiting and instructing the Lodges in their respective districts, and D. G. Lodges of instruction show a marked increase, having been during the year held in six districts, and in some of them two or three have been held in different localities. The marked improvement from holding these Lodges, and from the more frequent visits of the D. D. G. M.'s is spoken

of by all; and in only one report is the necessity of a grand lecturer suggested. The Board is of opinion, that the mode of instruction adopted by these six districts would be highly beneficial to all.

In most of the districts there were not many complaints, and with a few exceptions they were easily disposed of.

A number of dispensations were granted by the D. D. G. M.'s of the respective districts to hold festivals, which are reported to have been conducted with peace, harmony and good will, but in four districts the D. D. G. M.'s have granted dispensations to hold balls. The authority to grant such dispensations has been frequently declared to rest in the M. W. the G. M. alone.

Several Lodge rooms were destroyed by fire during the last year, but in every case the brethren zealously and heartily went to work to rebuild. Many Lodges are also reported as procuring more suitable accommodation, and the members of one Lodge in Pembroke have subscribed over \$1,000 to refurnish and adorn their lodge room.

Amongst the pleasing incidents that have occurred during the year, it should be specially mentioned that in the Wilson and Wellington districts, and also in the city of Toronto, subscriptions were made by Lodges for the sufferers by the Chicago fire, for which the brethren were warmly thanked by the M. W. the G. M. of Illinois, chairman of the Masonic Board of Relief in Chicago.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A letter was read from the superintendent of the Mechanics' Institute, tendering the use of the Reading Room to the members of Grand Lodge during the session.

A letter was also read from W. Bro. Rev. E. M. Myers, accompanied with 300 copies of his lecture on the "Origin and history of Freemasonry" for gratuitous distribution amongst the brethren attending Grand Lodge.

BUSINESS IN PRIVATE LODGES.

In accordance with notice given at last Annual Communication, it was moved by W. Bro. R. Nancollas, seconded by W. Bro. S. E. Mitchell,

That all business in private Lodges in connection with this Grand Lodge be conducted in the Third Degree.

The resolution was ruled out of order, the notice not having stated in definite terms that it was to amend the Constitution.

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

In accordance with notice given at last Annual Communication, it was moved by R. W. Bro. McPherson, seconded by R. W. Bro. V. Clementi, and

Resolved,—That Clause 1, "of Board of General Purposes" in the Book of Constitution be amended by inserting the words *Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Canada* after the words *the Board shall consist of the Grand Master*.

EVENING SESSION.

JULY 10th, 1872.

The following reports from the Board of General Purposes were submitted to Grand Lodge:

WARRANTS.

The Board of General Purposes beg to report that they have exam-

ined the books, papers, &c., of the following Lodges under Dispensation, viz :

Oak Branch, Innerkip, Ontario.	Verulam, Bobcaygeon, Ontario.
Forest, Forest, "	Brougham Union, "
Chaudiere, Ottawa, "	Cedar, Oshawa, "
Patterson, Concord, "	Kent, Blenheim. "
Northern Light, Stayner, "	Teeswater, Teeswater. "
Seymour, Ancaster, "	Mystic, Roslin, "
	Mount Sinai, Napance, "

The Board have also had before it applications from the following :

Eureka, Belleville, Ontario.	St. John, Ainleyville, Ontario
	Seymour, Alliston, Ontario.

applying for warrants, they not having had Dispensations.

They have examined into the merits of the several applications, and recommend that warrants be granted by the Grand Lodge to all the Lodges above named.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS.

The Board of General Purposes begs leave to submit the following Report on Grievances and Appeals :

1. The Board having considered the evidence submitted in the case of Bro. Anthony Skilding, of St. Thomas Lodge, No. 44, and in that of Bro. Thomas Taylor, of Lisgar Lodge, No. 244, do recommend that both of the said Brethren be expelled from the Craft for grossly unmasonic conduct.

2. The appeal of Bro. Henderson of Prince Ruperts Lodge, No. 240, having been considered, the Board is of the opinion that a motion to recommend a new Lodge is in order at a Regular meeting of the nearest Lodge, and may be entertained without any previous notice at any previous meeting of such Lodge, and that therefore the appeal must be sustained.

3. The appeal of Bro. Myers and that of Bro. Carman, both of Exclisor Lodge, No. 142, against their suspension by that Lodge with the evidence offered concerning the same having received consideration.

The Board begs leave to report that whilst Bro. Myers and Bro. Carman were both guilty of most unbecoming conduct during the time the Lodge was in session, it is the opinion of the Board that such conduct did not under the circumstances merit suspension, and it is therefore recommended that both appeals be allowed and that the suspension of Bro. Myers and Bro. Carman be removed.

The Board regrets the evidence in this case discloses an unhappy state of affairs in this Lodge, and urges that in future more consideration should be shown by the Brethren of the Lodge for the views and feelings of each other, and that the W. Master do enforce greater regularity and order in the conduct of the affairs of the Lodge.

The complaint of Bro. Sedgwick and twenty other members of Tudor Lodge, No. 141, against the action of the W. M. and Secretary of that Lodge with reference to their conduct on the application of Craig Lodge for permission to initiate Mr. Davis, who resided within the jurisdiction of the former Lodge, having been considered.

The Board is of the opinion that inasmuch as no Lodge can, since the amendment of the Constitution at the last Regular Communication of Grand Lodge, give any effectual consent to the initiation in another Lodge of a candidate resident beyond the jurisdiction of such Lodge, neither can the W. M. nor the Secretary give any such consent, and that

the Secretary of a Lodge should not presume to write in the name of a Lodge, or affix the seal of the Lodge to any such letter, without the sanction of the members of the Lodge first obtained at a meeting, and that the Secretary of a Lodge should read in open Lodge all communications addressed to him upon masonic business connected with his Lodge.

In the appeal of Bro. Saywright against the action of Bothwell Lodge, No. 179, which suspended him for non-payment of dues, this Board have learned that the matter has been adjusted, and that Bro. Saywright is to be restored to full masonic privileges, it is therefore unnecessary for any further action to be taken in the matter.

6. The complaint of V. W. Bro. Thos. Rawlings against W. Bro. Malloch is the non-payment of money in a business transaction between the parties, and therefore is a charge of such a nature that it cannot be entertained.

7. R. W. Bro. Franck having applied for further time to answer the summons for his expulsion from the Craft, and having pleaded not guilty to the charge upon which he has been suspended, it is recommended that the time for answering the charge be extended until the annual meeting of the Board.

GRAND SECRETARY'S SALARY.

The Board of General Purposes having taken into consideration the long and valuable services rendered the craft and Grand Lodge by R. W. Bro. Harris, Grand Secretary, and in view of the great increase in the expense of living, and the greatly increased labors and responsibilities appertaining to his office, recommends that his salary be increased to the sum of sixteen hundred dollars per annum.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

REPRINTING THE PROCEEDINGS—AMENDED REPORT.

The Board of General Purposes begs to report that in accordance with the resolution adopted at the last annual Communication of Grand Lodge the Grand Secretary advertised for tenders for printing 1000 copies of Proceedings of Grand Lodge since its formation.

In answer to the advertisement nine (9) tenders were received, all of which were carefully examined, and that of Messrs. Lawson, McCulloch & Co. was found to be the lowest.

The Board begs to recommend that should 400 copies be ordered, the tender of Messrs. Lawson, McCulloch & Co. be accepted, and that the proceedings be furnished to subscribers at a cost of not more than \$1.25 per volume, and that Grand Lodge subscribe for one hundred copies of said four hundred.

Letters of apology were read from R. W. Bro. T. White, Jr., D.G.M., who was present at the meeting of the Board of General Purposes on Monday and Tuesday, but had been unexpectedly summoned home, and from R. W. Bro. C. Forest, Grand Chaplain, and V. W. Bro. E. Racicot, regretting their inability to attend.

THE GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS.

The W. M. the Grand Master, who had a short time previously entered Grand Lodge, then delivered the following

ADDRESS.

BRETHREN OF GRAND LODGE,—

Having again been permitted by the G. A. O. T. U. to assemble together in Annual Communication, let us, before entering upon our important duties, implore His blessing upon our labours. May he give us Wisdom to comprehend, Judgment to define, and Strength of mind to carry out the true principles of Freemasonry. May the Beauty of Harmony and Peace characterize all our deliberations; and may He consecrate this our Mission to the Honor and Glory of His Most Holy name.

DISPENSATIONS.

During my year of office I issued the unprecedented number of twenty-one dispensations for the formation of new Lodges. It would be unnecessary to add anything to this statement, if numbers alone were a certain evidence of success; but since other elements are essential to real prosperity, I am happy to be able to state that after strict enquiry I have found the applicants for dispensations to be zealous and earnest Masons, and that the fields of their operations promise to be productive of excellent material. I have, therefore, every reason to believe that, by the establishment of these several Lodges, the craft will receive additional strength.

The names of the Lodges to which dispensations have been granted are as follows :

DATES.	NAME.	LOCATION.
1871.		
Sept. 13.	Oak Branch.	Innerkip.
" 23.	Harriston.	Harriston.
Oct. 18.	Forest.	Forest.
Nov. 25.	Chaudiere.	Ottawa.
Dec. 13.	Patterson.	Concord.
" 13.	Northern Light	Stayner.
1872.		
Jan. 19.	Parthenon.	Chatham.
Feb. 10.	Verulam.	Bobcaygeon.
" 14.	Brougham Union.	Brougham.
March 6.	Cedar.	Oshawa.
" 13.	Wellington.	Erin.
April. 2.	Seymour.	Ancaster.
" 16.	Olive Branch.	W. Shefford, Q.
" 25.	Kent.	Blenheim.
May 4.	Pontiac.	Onslow Q.
" 7.	Teeswater.	Teeswater.
" 9.	Seymour.	Pt. Dalhousie.
" 14.	Mystic.	Roslin.
" 15.	New Hope.	Hespeler.
June 5.	Mount Sinai.	Napanee.
" 25.	Thorne.	Hol'd.Landing.

RESCITATIONS.

I have also the pleasure to inform you that Morpeth Lodge, No. 111, Ridgetown, has been *resuscitated*, after being dormant for several years, and I trust will again carry on its work with renewed vigor.

WARRANTS OF AFFILIATION.

I have great gratification in being able to state that two of the Lodges in Ontario heretofore working under the Grand Lodge of England, and one under the Grand Lodge of Ireland, have surrendered their Warrants, and affiliated with this Grand Lodge, viz., Dalhousie Lodge, No. 835, E. R. Ottawa; St. John's Lodge, No. 796, E. R. Carleton Place; and St. John's Lodge, No. 209, I. R., London.

I feel confident that the Grand Lodge will accord a hearty and fraternal welcome to the representatives of these Lodges at this communication, in order to signify its most unqualified approval of their action.

I trust that the union of these Lodges with this Grand Lodge will be mutually beneficial, and that under their new allegiance they may enjoy even a greater degree of prosperity than they have hitherto done.

PUBLIC CEREMONIES.

During my term of office the foundation stones of seven public buildings were laid with Masonic ceremonies, viz :

At Shannonville, for a Masonic Hall, in August, by R. W. Bro. E. C. Flint, D. D. G. M. of the Prince Edward District.

At Picton, for a Union School House and Masonic Hall, also in August, by R. W. Bro. Henry Macpherson, P. G. S. W.

At Windsor, for a Public Hall, on 15th October, by R. W. Bro. John Tracy, D. D. G. M., St. Clair District.

At Washago, for an Episcopal Church, on the 24th May, by R. W. Bro. J. K. Kerr, D. D. G. M., Toronto District.

At Toronto, for a Union Railway Station, on the 13th June, by myself, assisted by the Grand Lodge officers and a large number of Lodges and brethren.

At Sandwich, for an Episcopal Church, on the 24th of June, by M. W. Bro. Wm. M. Wilson, P. G. M.

And at Napanee, for a Methodist Episcopal Church, by R. W. Bro. Thos. White, D. G. M., on the 9th July.

DEDICATION OF NEW HALLS AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

On the 9th of October I had the pleasure of dedicating the new Masonic Hall at the City of London, a capacious and beautiful room prepared for the accommodation of the city Lodges, on which occasion I was favored with the assistance of R. W. Bro. Billington, D. D. G. M., London District; R. W. Bro. P. J. Brown, D. D. G. M., Wilson District; R. W. Bro. Allan McLean, G. S. W.; R. W. Bros. Moffat and Westlake, the Rev. Bro. Innis, of St. Paul's Cathedral, as Grand Chaplain, and a large and delighted assembly of brethren.

After completing the ceremony of dedication and offering a few remarks pertinent to the occasion, a sumptuous repast was discussed at the Tecumseh Hotel, during which a subscription was taken up to aid the Chicago sufferers, and handsomely responded to.

During the same month I visited Galt and Guelph Lodges and installed their officers, in which interesting ceremonies I was ably assisted by R. W. Bros. T. B. Harris, Otto Klotz, and Charles Hendry.

In November I constituted Clifton Lodge and installed its officers, ably assisted by R. W. Bro. R. M. Wilson.

On the 25th January I constituted St. George's Lodge, St. George, and installed its officers, ably assisted by R. W. Bros. Klotz and Curtis, and a very large gathering of brethren from surrounding lodges. The banquet which followed was quite a *recherche* affair, and the sentiments expressed in response to the several toasts were of a highly instructive character. In this connection, I take pleasure in alluding to the great pains and talent displayed by the W. M., Bro. Kitchen, in conducting the affairs of the Lodge over which he so ably presides. Were all our young Lodges managed with the same zeal and ability, it would greatly redound to the honor of the Craft.

During the sessions of the Board of General Purposes in Toronto last February, I had the pleasure of visiting Ionic Lodge, where I met a large number of brethren, and noticed that the excellent work performed in that Lodge was in close conformity with our ritual.

In the same month I received a friendly invitation to dedicate publicly the new lodge room of the brethren of Norfolk Lodge, at Simcoe; but being unfortunately unable to respond to the same, I requested our esteemed brother, the M. W. P. G. M., Wm. M. Wilson, to officiate in my place, which I am happy to say he cheerfully did with his accustomed ability.

ILLNESS OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

I need scarcely recall to your minds the unfeigned grief with which the people of Canada, in common with those of the empire at large, heard of the dangerous illness of the Prince of Wales in December last, and the anxious solicitude which pervaded all classes until a favorable turning point in the disease had been reached. Happily it pleased the most High to avert the calamity which threatened to befall the nation, and when the electric cord vibrated the joyous intelligence that danger was no longer apprehended, a sense of relief thrilled every breast and a general outpouring of thanksgiving was offered up throughout the length and breadth of the Empire. While on every hand expressions of condolence and sympathy were tendered to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, I felt it was incumbent upon the Masonic body in Canada not to be behind hand in exhibiting its warm and loyal sympathy towards our beloved Sovereign in the hour of her affliction, and accordingly, finding that it would be too long to wait for the assembling of the Grand Lodge for the expression of that sympathy—a sympathy the more intense from the fraternal relations subsisting between His Royal Highness and our time honored institution,—I authorized the preparation

of the following address, which was beautifully engrossed by Mr. Wm. Bruce, of Hamilton, and forwarded through His Excellency the Governor General to Her Majesty :

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

Most Gracious Sovereign: The Brethren of the Honorable Fraternity of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the Grand Lodge of Canada, through its Grand and Executive Officers, *ad interim*, desire to be permitted to approach your most Gracious Majesty with a renewed expression of their attachment to peace, law, and order, and of their unceasing devotion to your Majesty's Royal person and Family.

They humbly trust that your Majesty will graciously suffer them to unite in giving expression to the great sympathy with your Majesty's sufferings during the protracted illness of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and of their profound and heartfelt congratulations that it has pleased the Great Jehovah, in the distribution of His manifold and boundless mercies, to avert the dangers which threatened for a season the life of him who is dear to all Your Majesty's faithful and devoted subjects, and to restore him to his family with renewed health and vigor.

They earnestly pray that the Great Architect of the Universe will long bless Your Majesty with health and strength to rule over the lives and fortunes of the people of your vast Empire.

Signed on behalf of the Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. M. of Canada.

Seal.

JAMES SEYMOUR, G. M.

THOS. WHITE, JR., D. G. M.

THOS. B. HARRIS, G. S.

Though this action of mine, in addressing Her Majesty in your behalf, was an assumed function, I have full confidence that every member of this Grand Lodge will heartily endorse every sentiment expressed therein.

THE QUEBEC DIFFICULTY.

In this matter the resolution passed by the Grand Lodge last year has been faithfully acted upon ; but I have to regret that the efforts made by our brethren to bring about a favorable solution of existing difficulties have so far proved unsuccessful. I had hoped that your Deputy Grand Master, who had taken special charge of this subject, would have been present to afford the fullest explanations regarding the overtures made to solve this difficulty, but am sorry to hear that urgent business prevents him from so doing. I have therefore to refer you to the protocols, copies of which have already been furnished to every Lodge, and which fully set forth the overtures made, and the abrupt and unsatisfactory termination of the negotiations, and leave the matter in your hands for any further action which may be deemed advisable.

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES.

In the course of the year I have had the pleasure of appointing three brethren of eminence as representatives of this Grand Lodge near the grand bodies named below viz :

R. W. Bro. W. H. Tuller, for the Grand Lodge of Georgia.

R. W. Bro. W. M. Washburne, for the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

M. W. Bro. P. G. M. Harvey L. Hazelrigg, for the Grand Lodge of Indiana.

These several brethren, holding positions of eminence and distinction in their respective Grand Lodges, I have no doubt that they will ably represent the interests of this Grand Lodge now confided to them.

OBITARY.

Among those whose demise we are called upon to deplore, I may mention the revered name of M. W. Bro. Wm. Combyn Stephens, Past Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of England near this Grand Lodge—an earnest and enthusiastic craftsman, and one whose extensive knowledge of Masonic lore made him esteemed and respected wherever he was known. We lament his loss as that of one who was a firm and steadfast friend to this Grand Lodge from its formation, and whose Masonic attainments and many social virtues will cause his decease to be deeply regretted and his memory to be faithfully preserved among the Masons in this jurisdiction. His death occurred in England in December last.

We have also to lament the loss of R. W. Bro. Silas B. Fairbanks, Past Grand Reg., who died at Oshawa in September. He was held in high estimation among the brethren in this section, as an earnest and careful worker and lover of the fraternity wherever dispersed.

MANITOBA.

You will be gratified to learn that the Lodges planted in this new Province of our Dominion, under warrants issued by this Grand Lodge, are working harmoniously, and vying with each other as to which shall best exemplify the time honored principles of our Order. Under the genial and experienced guidance of R. W. Bro. J. V. Noel, whose nomination as D. D. G. M., for that Provincial District I had much satisfaction in confirming, the brethren and Lodges are in cordial amity; and no case of grievance has occurred, or difficulty arisen, that has not been promptly adjudicated upon to the mutual approval of all concerned. With such a spirit actuating these brethren, we cannot doubt that Manitoba will become, in time, a field where the principles of Masonry will be cultivated for their worth, and where, their worth becoming known, to be a Mason in connection with this Grand Lodge will be esteemed one of the highest privileges a true craftsman can enjoy.

CHICAGO FIRE.

Immediately after the report reached us of the awful calamity which befell the city of Chicago, in October last, whereby the greater portion of that prosperous city was reduced to ashes by that most devouring element—FIRE, I received a telegram from our worthy D. G. M., R. W. Bro. Thomas White, urging me to sanction the issuing of an order on our Grand Treasurer to pay out of the Grand Lodge funds the sum of \$2,000 for the immediate relief of our suffering Chicago brethren. I at once telegraphed to the M. W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, to draw upon our Grand Treasurer for that amount in gold. He did so accordingly, and his acknowledgement of the same, of which the following is a copy, plainly shows the high appreciation held by them of our assistance in the hour of their affliction.

MASONIC TEMPLE, CHICAGO, }
Oct. 14, 1871.

Most W. G. M. James Seymour, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada :

MOST WORTHY AND DEAR BROTHER : Your telegram of date 13th inst warms the great Masonic heart, evidencing, as it does, the genuine sympathy of our venerated and noble Order. To meet the wants of the hour and provide for permanent relief to the sufferers by our late conflagration, by virtue of my office I have appointed and constituted a "Masonic Board of Relief," of which Bro Wiley M. Egan is the Treasurer. In accordance with your telegram, I draw on Bro. Henry Groff, Grand Treasurer, Simcoe, Canada, for two thousand dollars, in gold, in favor of Wiley M. Egan, Treasurer.

May God bless you and yours, and enable us to repay by lasting gratitude, if not in kind and coin, your generous bounty.

I have the honor to be,
Yours, respectfully and fraternally,

D. G. GREGER,
Grand Master of Masons of Illinois.

This grant was made, as you are aware, without your consent, but it being such an urgent case of emergency—one in which every country and nation sympathized—I felt justified in giving my consent. My action as well as that of the President of the B. of G. P., was unanimously approved by that Board at its semi-annual meeting, and I have every confidence that you will now confirm the same. In addition, I am happy to inform you that the great liberality exhibited by the various Grand Lodges and Private Lodges in at once coming to the rescue of our afflicted brethren of Chicago, has brought such a large amount of funds to their coffers, that they inform the fraternity that not only no further funds are required to supply all reasonable claims of the brethren who have thus suffered by that calamity, but that the Board of Relief has a surplus on hand for which there is no immediate want!

TESTIMONIAL.

I am sure, Brethren, that you will agree with me that we are greatly indebted to our esteemed M. W. Bro. Stevenson, for the able and zealous manner in which, for a period of three years, he presided as Grand Master over our deliberations, and for the numerous and incalculable services he has rendered to the Craft; and that I only need to mention the propriety of showing a tangible appreciation of the many arduous labors which he has been required to perform on our behalf.

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

The numerous and highly important duties which devolve upon the Board of General Purposes, make it imperative that the most experienced and talented Brethren

be from time to time selected to perform the functions of that Board. This fact being undoubtedly admitted by every member of this Grand Lodge, I feel confident that you will agree with me that no Brother ought to be disqualified from being elected or appointed a member of that board by reason of his holding or not holding any particular office in a Lodge. But since our present constitution requires that not more than one-half of such appointed or elected members are to be Pastmasters at the time of such appointment or election, it follows that either the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master are restricted in their selection and not permitted to choose those whom they respectively consider the most competent for that office. I would therefore recommend Grand Lodge to amend that disqualifying clause, which in fact has for many years been honored rather more in the breach than in the observance of the same. At the same time I would recommend that all Past Grand Masters be declared honorary members of the Board, thereby enabling the Grand Lodge and the Grand Master to elect or appoint from time to time, for the actual working of the Board, such other Brethren as they respectively consider best qualified for the same without the fear of violating the rules of courtesy towards any Past Grand Master whose great experience is always invaluable in the Board, especially by counsel and advice, while it would be taxing them with more labor than should be required of them were we to expect them to take constant part in all the hard work of that Board.

DUAL MEMBER-SHIP

The resolution passed at last Grand Lodge declaring that no brother can be an ordinary member of more than one Lodge within the same city, town or village, has been generally acted upon during the past year; though there are a few exceptions, where brethren questioning the constitutionality of that resolution in the form and manner of its passing, *have not complied*, and still continue their dual membership. I would therefore recommend to Grand Lodge, if it be the desire to abolish dual membership to enact an additional regulation whereby all doubts on that subject will be removed

CONDITION OF MASONRY.

The flourishing state of our noble institution is a gratifying fact to all of us, not only in regard to its finances, but in respect to the increase of the number of lodges under our jurisdiction, and more especially in the increase of good material and the progress of the moral influence which the tenets of our Order have exercised and continue to exercise upon the fraternity; all of which will be more particularly illustrated by the Reports of the D. D. G. Masters, whose great zeal for the welfare of the craft has in no small degree contributed to achieve that great object.

Nevertheless, Brethren, let us in our prosperity not get remiss in our duties; let us continue to be careful and guard well the portals of our Order against unfit material, ever bearing in mind that it is an easier matter to make a person a Mason, than, after being made, to get rid of a member who has proved himself a dishonor to his lodge and to the craft in general.

Brethren, in conclusion, let me, while felicitating you upon the prosperity that has marked the career of this Grand Lodge in the past, earnestly exhort you not to forget the mission that Masonry has in view, nor the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, that should ever characterise us in our intercourse one with another. Meeting as we do at this time in Annual Communication, it is fitting that opportunity should be taken to improve that meeting with wholesome admonition upon our duty, not only to the craft, but to the world at large. May the Most High prosper our united endeavors so to shape our course, that amongst ourselves we may exemplify the tenets of our Order, and amongst the outside world we may pursue a course of rectitude and integrity that will show to those who know not what Masonry is, that at least we are living exemplars of the moral law, and that we fear God, honor the Queen, and conform to the relations of good neighbors and citizens. May this be the result of our deliberations at the present time; and to the G. A. O. T. U. will we ascribe the credit and blessing.

St. Catharines, July 7, 1872.

JAMES SEYMOUR,
Grand Master.

The representatives of the Lodges lately known as Dalhousie Lodge, No. 835, E. R. Ottawa, St. John's Lodge, No. 796, E. R. Carleton Place, and St. John's Lodge, No. 209, I. R. London, but now affiliated with the Grand Lodge of Canada, were presented by M. W. Bro. A. A. Stevenson, to the M. W. the Grand Master and received a cordial welcome.

MORNING SESSION, 11th July.

R. W. Bro. McPherson, on behalf of the B. of G. P. submitted the following

REPORT ON ADDRESS OF THE GRAND MASTER.

In reviewing the very able address of the M. W. the G. M. the Board would unite with him in the expression of the hope, that the legislation of Grand Lodge during its present session, may be productive of the greatest good to the Craft in this Jurisdiction:

The Board also concurs that the formation of twenty one new Lodges affords gratifying evidence of our continued prosperity, and they are further gratified to hear that those new Lodges are composed of able and zealous masons.

They also received with unmingled gratification, the announcement of the affiliation of Dalhousie and St. John's Lodges under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England, and of St. John's Lodge under the Registry of Ireland, and that the Board concurs in the desire expressed by the M. W. the G. M. that under their new allegiance they may enjoy increased prosperity.

The number of public Masonic ceremonies that have taken place during the year, give further evidence of the advance of the Craft and the esteem of the general public.

The exceedingly appropriate and well timed address of the M. W. the G. M. to Her most gracious Majesty the Queen, on the happy recovery of His Royal Highness from his late dangerous illness, meets with the heartfelt approbation of this Grand Lodge.

The Board cordially sympathizes with the regrets expressed by the M. W. the G. M. at the failure of the attempts at a settlement of the Quebec difficulty and are pained to find that the liberal concessions made by this Grand Lodge have been objected by our dissenting brethren in Quebec.

The Board hears with unfeigned sorrow of the demise of the distinguished brethren referred to in the address of the M. W. the G. M., and suggests the propriety of a special resolution of regret with respect to the death of M. W. Bro. Stephens, and would recommend that memorial pages be inserted in the next annual report of the proceedings of this Grand Lodge.

The Board rejoices to hear of the continued prosperity of the new Lodges in the Province of Manitoba.

In the opinion of the Board, the thanks of this Grand Lodge are due to the Grand Master, for his prompt action in sending relief to the distressed brethren of the city of Chicago, thus exemplifying the virtues of masonic charity in a practical way, which cannot fail to be duly appreciated.

The Board cordially concurs in the recommendation of the M. W. the G. M. with respect to the M. W. P. G. M. Stevenson, and hopes that Grand Lodge will take the earliest opportunity of carrying out the recommendation contained in the address; and would suggest the propriety of the G. M. appointing a committee for that purpose.

As there are two notices of motion respecting dual membership, the Board trusts that the opinion of Grand Lodge will be obtained on this point during this session.

The Board fully concurs in the remarks of the G. M., that Lodges should guard well their portals.

The Board cannot close this report without expressing their great

gratification at the recovery of the M. W. the G. M. from a recent severe illness; and although the G. M. does not appear to have fully recovered, yet they hope and trust that the G. A. O. T. U. will be pleased speedily to restore our esteemed G. M. to his wonted health and strength. All which is respectfully submitted.

ADDRESS TO PRINCE OF WALES.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. Rev. V. Clementi, seconded by R. W. Bro. Noel, and

Resolved,—That the M. W. the Grand Master appoint a committee to prepare an address to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales.

VILLAGE OF YORKVILLE.

It was moved by V. W. Bro. Jas. Bain, seconded by R. W. Bro. D. McLellan, and

Resolved,—That the Village of Yorkville, in the Township of York, be masonically included in the jurisdiction of the City of Toronto.

DUAL MEMBERSHIP.

In accordance with notice given at last Annual Communication it was moved by V. W. Bro. J. J. Mason, seconded by W. Bro. W. S. Martin,

That a new clause, to be numbered Clause 9, be added to the Book of Constitution under the head of "members and their duty," as follows: "No brother shall be an ordinary member of more than one Lodge in the same District."

In amendment it was moved by W. Bro. Cascaden, seconded by W. Bro. Ruthven,

That Dual membership be prohibited in cities, towns, and villages in which there is concurrent jurisdiction.

In amendment to the amendment it was moved by W. Bro. N. G. Bigelow, seconded by V. W. Bro. Jas. Gibson,

That the word *hereafter* be inserted after the word *prohibited* in the amendment.

The original resolution, the amendment, and the amendment to the amendment, were severally put to Grand Lodge and declared lost.

It was then moved by R. W. Bro. R. P. Stephens, seconded by R. W. Bro. Otto Klotz, and

Resolved,—That the resolution passed at the last Annual Communication of Grand Lodge declaring that "no brother can be an ordinary member of more than one lodge within the same city, town, or village be rescinded."

DEATH OF M. W. BRO. W. C. STEPHENS

It was moved by M. W. Bro. W. M. Milne, seconded by M. W. Bro. W. B. Simpson, and

Resolved,—That the official announcement of the death of our distinguished and Most Worshipful Brother, William C. Stephens, Esq., has been received with profound regret by this Grand Lodge; the valuable services rendered by Bro. Stephens at and after the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and his many amiable qualities, having endeared him to all with whom he came in contact.

The Grand Lodge takes the earliest opportunity to place on record the high sense it entertains of the important services conferred upon the Craft by the late lamented brother Stephens, and to express the deep and heartfelt sympathy which its members feel, in common with the bereaved family of our deceased brother, in their great and severe affliction.

That to further mark the sorrow of this Grand Lodge at the great loss it has sustained, it be an instruction to the R. W. the Grand Secretary to prepare a memorial page, in which to record the name, rank, age, &c., of the lamented deceased; and likewise that the officers of this Grand Lodge wear mourning for the space of thirty days, during which time the jewels and furniture are also to be draped in mourning.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

JULY 11th.

DOMINION TELEGRAPH CO.

A letter was read from John I. McKenzie, Esq., Vice-President of the Dominion Telegraph Company, presenting a blank message book, and tendering the free use of the Company's line to the members of Grand Lodge.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. Otto Klotz, seconded by R. W. Bro. John Brooke, and

Resolved,—That the sum of \$2600 be transferred from the General Fund account to the Benevolent Fund.

WARRANTS.

The following supplementary Report was submitted:

The Board of General Purposes beg to report that they have had applications before them from the following Lodges, applying for warrants viz:

Parthenon, Chatham, Ontario.	Harriston, Harriston, Ontario.
Wellington, Erie, “	Seymour, Dalhousie, “
Olive Branch, West Shefford, Quebec.	New Hope, Hespeler, “
Pontiac, Onslow, Quebec.	Thorne, Holland Landing, Ontario.
Lorne, Glencoe, Ontario.	

and beg to recommend that Warrants be granted as prayed for.

Your Board has also had before it applications for warrants from the following, viz:

Ancient Landmark, Winnipeg, Manitoba.	Morrisburgh, Morrisburgh, Ontario.
	L'Orignal, L'Orignal, Ontario.

and regret that they cannot recommend Grand Lodge to grant them warrants as desired.

Your Board would also respectfully suggest that for the future all Lodges desiring warrants do forward their Minute Books, &c., to the Grand Secretary, at least one week before the meeting of Grand Lodge, so that sufficient time may be afforded for their proper examination.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

BENEVOLENCE.

R. W. Bro. Otto Klotz presented a report recommending that sums amounting in the aggregate to \$3575 be paid from the fund of Benevolence to the parties therein named.

CONSTITUTION AND REGULATIONS.

The Board of General Purposes beg to submit the following Report on Constitution and Regulations:

The Board has learned with much pleasure, that the Lodges working under English and Scottish Warrants in our Sister Province of British Columbia, have united in forming themselves into an independent Grand Lodge for that Province, and they recommend that Grand Lodge do forthwith extend to the Grand Lodge of British Columbia a cordial and fraternal recognition.

With reference to the circular received from the Grand Lodge of Utah, which appears to have been formed by only three subordinate Lodges, the Board recommends that in the absence of information as to the circumstances attending its erection into an independent Grand Lodge, and as to whether these Lodges compose the whole or a majority

of the Lodges in that territory, Grand Lodge for the present defer taking any action in the matter.

The Board after having carefully considered the application of St. Thomas' Lodge, No. 44, and the facts adduced by the W. M. in reference thereto, recommend that the suspension of brother M. P. Whipple, a former member of that Lodge be removed, and he be restored to good standing.

With regard to the complaint preferred by Hawkesbury Lodge, No. 210, against St. John's Lodge, No. 159, I. R., and the correspondence and other documents submitted in connection therewith, the Board, in view of the fact that the M. W. Grand Master, has communicated with the M. W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland on the subject, deem it inadvisable to take further action in the matter until a reply to that communication has been received.

The Board regrets to learn from the circular issued by the Grand Lodge of the state of New Jersey, that the Grand Lodge of Hamburg has instituted a Lodge within the jurisdiction of the former without its consent or concurrence.

The Board is of opinion that the action of the Grand Lodge of Hamburg is an illegal and unmasonic intrusion into and upon the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, and they feel assured that this Grand Lodge will unite with other Grand Lodges in any proper measures for the purpose of resisting such invasion and preventing any such action in the future.

With reference to the circular received from the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, the Board deem it unnecessary to refer to the resolution adopted by that Grand Lodge in the matter of the Quebec difficulty any further than to express their regret that they should, in common with some other Grand Lodges, have taken such action on what the Board cannot but regard as insufficient and imperfect information.

While concurring with that Grand Lodge in the opinion that the establishment by the Grand Lodge of Hamburg and the Grand Orient of France of subordinate Lodges within the jurisdiction of other independent Grand Lodges is both illegal and unmasonic, and should be resisted by all proper means, the Board cannot but protest most earnestly against the assumption that there is any "*American*" as distinguished from "*Masonic*" doctrine, which can be at all binding on this or any other independent Grand Lodge, and the attempt on the part of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana to coerce foreign Grand Lodges into a recognition of such "*American doctrines*" under the threat of an interruption of friendly relations and a breaking up of masonic intercourse with such foreign Grand Lodges is in the opinion of this Board a most unwarranted interference with the actions of independent Grand Lodges, and one which they feel assured will be disapproved of even by their sister Grand Lodges in the United States.

The Board is of opinion with reference to certain questions submitted regarding honorary members, that the election of a brother as an honorary member expressed at the time of election to be "*with full privileges of ordinary members*," confers all the rights and privileges of ordinary membership including the right of voting, and that an honorary member so elected is not required to pay dues if afterwards elected to office.

All which is respectfully submitted.

THE QUEBEC QUESTION.

It was moved by W. Bro. Rev. E. M. Myers, seconded by R. W. Bro. J. B. Bickell,

That the present existing differences regarding Masonic jurisdiction in this Province, are highly detrimental to the interests of the craft, and unbecoming a body professing its principles, and an institution second in importance to none in the world. That a continuance of these differences must ultimately become very injurious, and discreditable to the reputation of the order, and that it is the bounden duty of every true and sincere Mason, to exert all the influence in his power to induce a pacific solution and adjustment of them. That to this end a Committee be appointed from this Grand Lodge to consist of M. W. Past Masters Bros. Wilson and Simpson, and R. W. Bro. Thos. White, Jr., D. G. M. to confer with a similar Committee from the so-called Grand Lodge of Quebec, and that the Committee so formed shall select an umpire, and the said Committee be invested with full powers, and are hereby authorised to settle and adjust, as may seem to them best for the interest of the craft, all differences and matters of dispute which now unhappily exist; and it is the earnest prayer of this Grand Lodge that the G. A. O. T. U. may instill into the said Committee, wisdom and forbearance in the discharge of its sacred and important duty, and that its efforts may be crowned with success.

After a brief discussion, R. W. Bro. J. B. Bickell asked permission to withdraw his name as seconder of the resolution, and the name of Bro. Norris was inserted instead. Subsequently, W. Bro. Myers, seeing that the members of Grand Lodge were almost unanimously opposed to the resolution, with the permission of his seconder, asked leave to withdraw it, which was granted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The M. W. the Grand Master was pleased to appoint R. W. Bro. D. Spry and W. Bros. Le Blanc and Kolmyer, scrutineers of the ballot for Grand Officers and for members of the Board of General Purposes. They reported as follows:

M. W. Bro. W. M. Wilson, Simcoe,	G. M.
R. " " T. White, jr., Montreal,	D. G. M.
Y. " " James Bain, Toronto,	G. S. W.
" " Horace Merrill, Ottawa,	G. J. W.
" " Rev. E. Lounsbury, Ingersoll,	G. Chaplain.
R. " " Henry Groff, Simcoe,	G. Treasurer.
Y. " " C. Bennett, Port Rowan,	G. Registrar.
R. " " T. B. Harris, Hamilton,	G. Secretary.
By an open vote of Grand Lodge,	
" Robert Colquhoun, Montreal,	Grand Tyler.

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS.

		St. Clair	District.
W. Bro. James Gowans, Sarnia,		London	"
" " F. Westlake, London,		Wilson	"
R. " " H. McK. Wilson, Brantford,		Huron	"
" " J. E. Harding, St. Marys,		Wellington	"
" " T. M. Anderson, Ayr,		Hamilton	"
R. " " E. Mitchell, Hamilton,		Niagara	"
" " R. Kemp, Niagara,		Toronto	"
R. " " Henry Robertson, Collingwood,		Ontario	"
" " J. B. Trayes, Port Hope,		Prince Edward	"
" " F. Richardson, Napanee,		St. Lawrence	"
" " James Reynolds, Prescott,		Ottawa	"
R. " " E. C. Barber, Ottawa,		Montreal	"
" " William Mackenzie, Montreal, Que.		Bedford	"
" " George H. Allen, Waterloo, Que.		Province of Manitoba	
R. " " J. V. Noel, Winnipeg,			

Elected members Board of General Purposes :

- R. W. Bro. J. K. Kerr, Toronto.
- " " " D. Spry, Toronto.
- " " " William McCabe, Toronto.
- " " " Henry McPherson, Owen Sound.
- " " " Otto Klotz, Preston.
- " " " P. J. Brown, Ingersoll.

Appointed members Board of General Purposes :

- R. W. Bro. Allan McLean, Ingersoll.
- " " " C. D. Macdonnell, Peterboro'.
- " " " R. P. Stephens, Toronto.
- " " " John Urquhart, Montreal.
- V. " " James Gibson, Windsor.
- " " " J. J. Mason, Hamilton.
- " " " G. Levin, Ottawa.

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION, 1873.

On motion, it was resolved that the next Annual Communication of Grand Lodge be held at the city of Montreal.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

R. W. Bro. E. Mitchell presented the report on Foreign Correspondence, which on motion was received and ordered to be printed with the proceedings.

EVENING SESSION,

11th JULY.

ANALYTICAL INDEX.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. Otto Klotz, seconded by R. W. Bro. James Bain, and

Resolved,—That an analytical index of all parties who have received aid from the benevolent fund, be prepared by the Grand Secretary, for the use of the Board of General Purposes, in conformity with the recommendation of that Board in their Report on Benevolence.

F.M.I ISLANDS:

The Grand Secretary read a letter received from W. Bro. H. Oliphantpaton, Levaka, Fiji, announcing the formation of a Masonic Lodge at that place, named "Polynesia," and seeking recognition from the various Grand Lodges throughout the world. The Grand Lodge decided to seek further information before taking action in the matter—inasmuch as the mode adopted in the formation of the said Lodge, which was very briefly set forth, appeared to be at variance with the well recognized principles of the Order.

GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

The Grand Secretary laid before Grand Lodge a letter received from R. W. Bro. Sir John A. Macdonald, Representative, covering a letter from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England, enclosing correspondence having reference to the "Dalhousie" Lodge, Ottawa, which was read and referred to the Board of General purposes for enquiry and consideration.

ADDRESS TO H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The committee appointed to prepare an address to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, submitted the following :

To His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales;

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS;

We the members of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Canada, in Grand Lodge assembled, most respectfully approach your Royal Highness with the assurance of our most profound respect and fraternal regard.

We desire to avail ourselves of this our earliest opportunity of giving expression to the high sense we entertain of the signal mercy displayed by the G. A. O. T. U. in the restoration of your R. H. to health, in answer to the heartfelt prayers of an United Empire.

It having been our happy lot to be permitted to welcome your R. H. to this the most important of Her Majesty's Colonies, we have the pleasure of cherishing a feeling of attachment to the person of your R. H. in addition to that of respect, which we entertain for the Heir to the British Throne. And we pray earnestly that it may please Almighty God to vouchsafe such a measure of health to your R. H. in the future as may tend to the promotion of the happiness of your R. H. and the well being of the mighty Empire, over which at some future, though distant, day, it will be, we trust, your proud destiny to preside.

R. W. BRO. G. F. GOULEY.

A telegram was read from R. W. Bro. G. F. Gouley, representative of the Grand Lodge of Canada at the Grand Lodge of Missouri, regretting that he would not be able to reach Hamilton in time to attend the present Communication.

M. W. Bro. Seymour stated that R. W. Bro. Gouley had in season and out of season, faithfully, zealously, and ably supported the Grand Lodge of Canada in reference to the *Quebec matter*, and he felt sure it would have given the members of Grand Lodge great pleasure to have met their true and trusty friend.

TESTIMONIAL TO M. W. BRO. A. A. STEVENSON.

In accordance with the Report of the B. of G. P. on the address of the M. W. the Grand Master, the following committee was appointed to prepare a testimonial to M. W. Bro. A. A. Stevenson, namely, M. W. Bro. W. M. Wilson and R. W. Bros. Thos. White, Jr. and J. K. Kerr.

TESTIMONIAL TO M. W. BRO. SEYMOUR.

It was moved by R. W. Bro. Hy. McPherson, seconded by R. W. Bro. P. J. Brown, and unanimously resolved,

That the members of this Grand Lodge cannot permit M. W. Bro. James Seymour to retire from the position of Grand Master, which he has so ably filled during the past year, without an earnest assurance of the great respect entertained for him by every member of the Grand Lodge, and the high esteem in which he is held by every Freemason within this jurisdiction; and they fervently pray that the G. A. O. T. U. will see fit to restore him to such health, as to enable him at no distant day to afford this Grand Lodge a continuance of the active and zealous interest which has always characterized him in connection with the discharge of the high and responsible offices which that eminent Brother has so worthily filled, and that it be an instruction to the committee appointed to procure a testimonial for M. W. Bro. Stevenson, also to select and present a suitable testimonial to our M. W. Bro.

VOTES OF THANKS.

Votes of thanks were unanimously passed to the Scrutineers, Hamilton Committee of Arrangements, various Railway Companies, the Committee on Credentials, the Dominion Telegraph Company, &c.

INSTALLATIONS.

The newly elected officers were duly installed, and Grand Lodge was closed in ample form at low twelve.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NOVA SCOTIA.

HALIFAX, July 23, 1872.

BROTHER CRAFTSMAN,

Under the auspices of St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 1, R. N. S., at the Masonic Hall in this place agreeably to announcement in the city papers, on Thursday evening, 18th instant, the Brethren in considerable numbers assembled to hear a lecture by Bro. J. Fletcher Brennan of Cincinnati, on the "History of English Masonic Ritualism. Edified and instructed, the audience (all Brethren of the Lodges in this city and visiting Brothers,) at the close of his lecture, and which occupied about an hour in its delivery, warmly applauded the lecturer; and Bro. John D. Nash, P. G. M. moved, and Bro. Allan H. Crowe, P. D. G. M., seconded, with suitable remarks, respectively, that a vote of thanks be tendered the lecturer, Bro. J. Fletcher Brennan by St. Andrew's Lodge, for the instruction and entertainment offered by his lecture, and particularly for that portion of it in which the difference prevailing between the Ancients and Moderns during the past century was explained, and the cause so clearly defined of that variety which is noticeable in the Lodge Ritual as practiced in the various States, Provinces, and Territories of this country. After the passage of this motion, which, by the members present of St. Andrew's, was unanimous, Bro. Benjamin Curren, D. C. L., Grand Secretary of the G. L. of Nova Scotia arose, and after, in his usually most polite and urbane manner, requesting Bro. R. C. Hamilton, W. M. of St. Andrew's, to vacate the chair in favor of Bro. Fraser, Past Provincial Grand Secretary. Bro. Curren, in some remarks laudatory as well of the lecture as of the lecturer, and who he was pleased to say had been for many years engaged, as numerous Masonic periodicals would bear witness, in enlightening the Fraternity generally and wherever disposed, moved that the thanks of that assembly of Brethren be tendered to Saint Andrew's Lodge, for the never-ceasing solicitude of that body, under its present popular W. M., to contribute to the instruction and entertainment of the Brethren generally of Halifax. Bro. Arthur Fletcher, in a few remarks happily rendered, seconded the motion of Bro. Curren, which being put by the chairman, Bro. Fraser, was carried unanimously and by acclamation. The audience, therefore, with sentiments of fraternal greeting dispersed about 10.45 p. m.

A general expression of desire that Bro. Brennan should allow his lecture to be printed for circulation among the craft was met by the remark, from that Brother, that the substance of much of the lecture had already appeared in Dr. Mackey's *National Freemason*, published by McGill & Witherow, at \$3.00 a year, in Washington City, and which he (Bro. B.) said he regarded as the most instructive Masonic magazine at present in North America, its editor being long and generally known as the Blackstone of Masonic law and jurisprudence, as well as a general Masonic author and writer of great ability.

I would add that Bro. J. F. Brennan is at present engaged in Halifax preparing his materials for a general history of Freemasonry in North America, and which he assures me will, so far as it is at all possible by travel and labor for him to obtain them, be compiled and written from original documents only, and great store of which, going back for more than a century he has found in this city (where a Masonic Lodge can be found with its original charter from the Earl of Blesington bearing date March 26, 1768) and the whole of which documents have, in the most cordial and fraternal manner by their possessors here, been placed at his disposal. He tells me that he has found three original warrants, one of them a Provincial Grand Warrant, bearing date 27th Dec., 1757.

I am fraternally yours,

VIATOR.

INSTALLATION.—At a meeting of the Keith Chapter held at the new Hall on Prince Street, over the store of J. F. Blanchard, Esq., Truro, the following Officers were installed by M. E. Comp. D. Pottinger, II. P. of St. Andrews Chapter, Halifax:—

R. E.—Rev. W. T. Wilkins, M. E. H. P.; R. E. Julius W. Miller, Exl. King; R. E. Thos. V. Cooke, Exl. Scribe; Comp.—John Yuill, C. of H; Comp. Alex. Chisholm, P. S; Comp. Alex. L. McKenzie, R. A. C; J. A. Leaman, G. M. of 3rd Veil; Comp. W. M. Birrell, G. M. 2nd Veil; Comp. Geo. Hyde, G. M. 1st Veil; Comp. Alexander McKay, Treas; Comp. John Bonayne, Secy; Comp. Rev. Robt. Haire, Chap; Comp. W. Truc McBobet, M. D., Organist; Comp. Geo. H. Skiuner, Janitor.