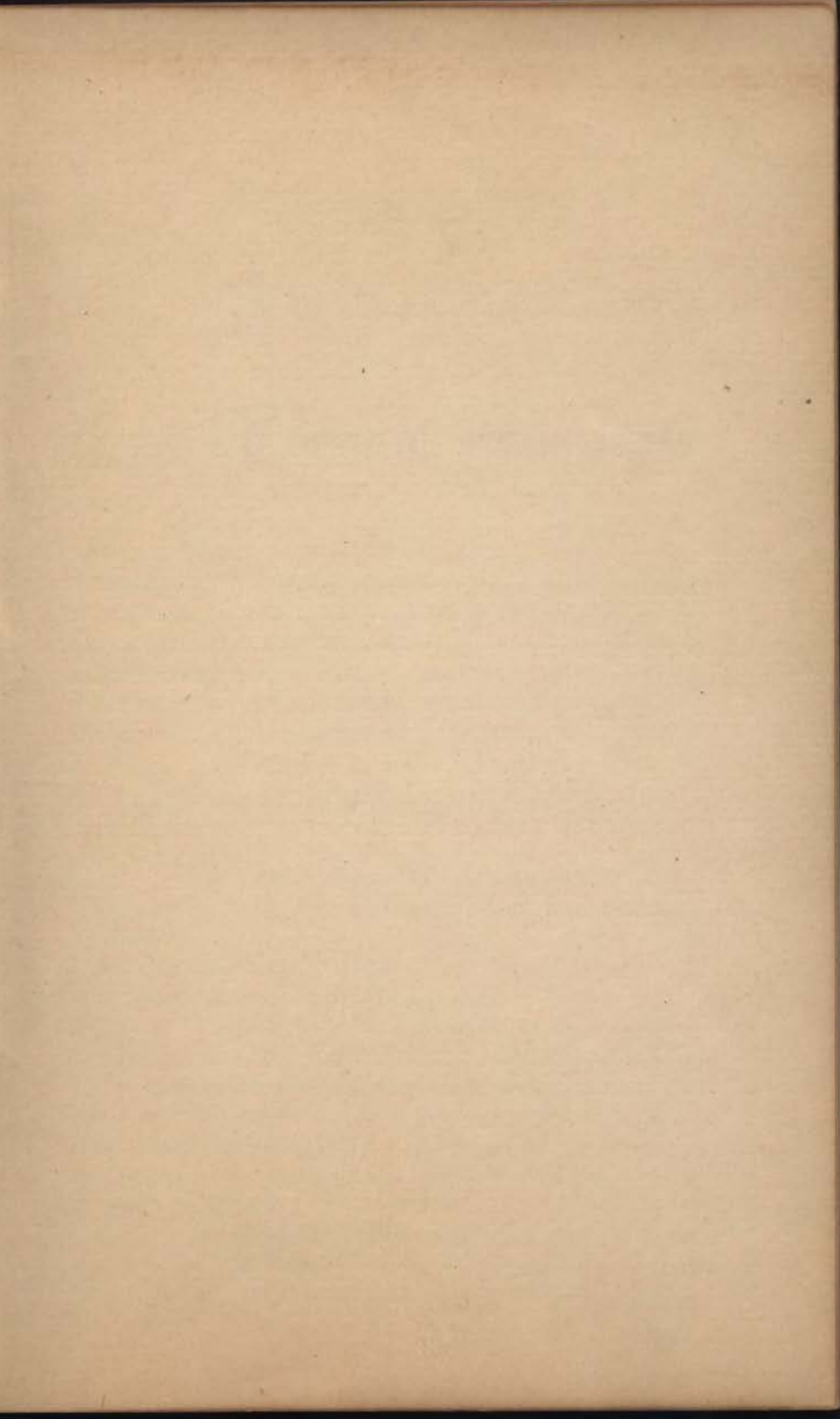
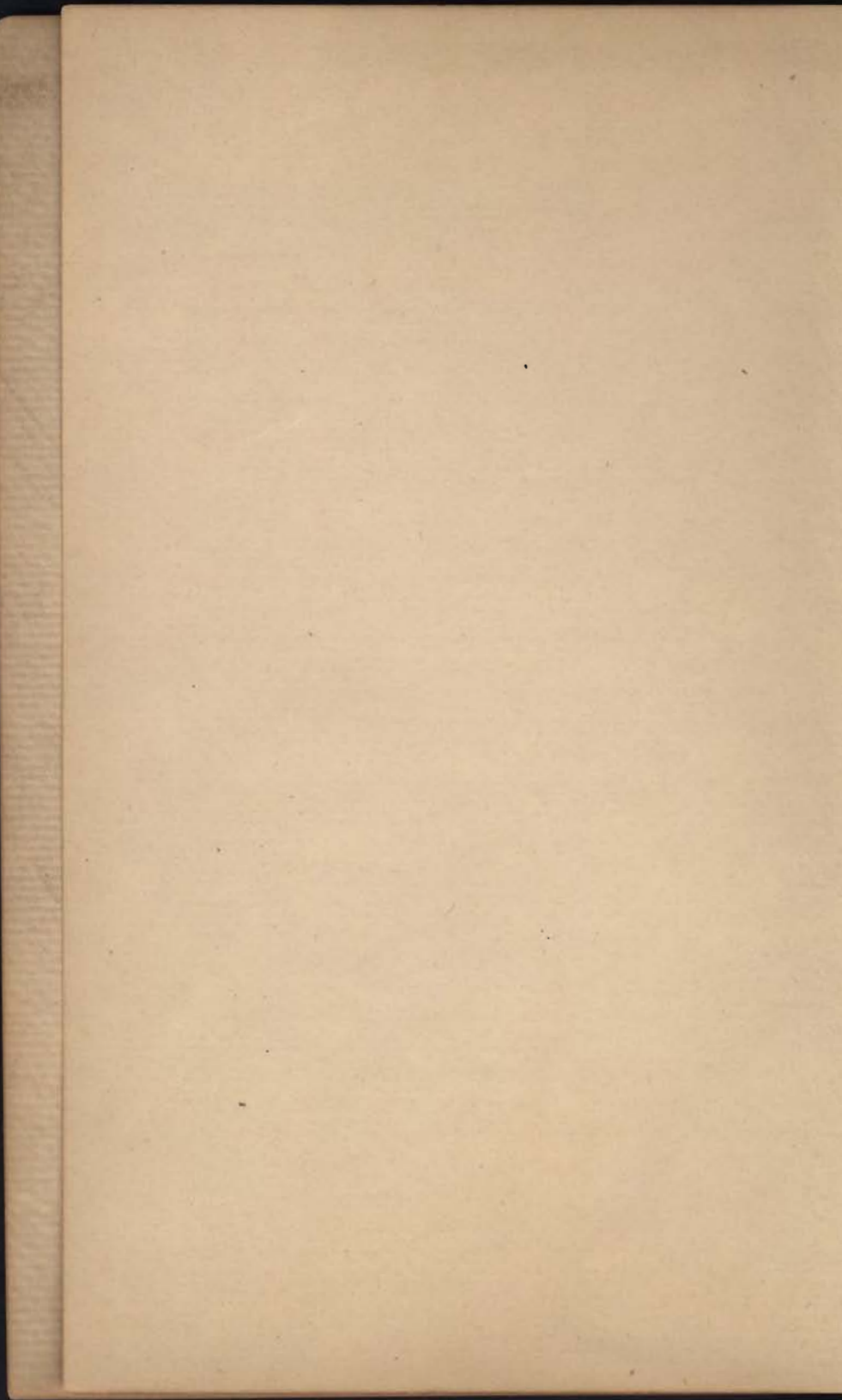


1879

Bill Edwards





CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Grand Lodge of Minnesota.

WE, the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota, practicing the Ancient York Rite, in order to perform perfect union, establish order, insure tranquility, provide for and promote the general welfare of the Craft, and to secure to the fraternity within our jurisdiction, the blessing of the Masonic privilege, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

PART FIRST—POWERS AND PRIVILEGES.

TITLE FIRST—OF MASONIC GOVERNMENT.

SECTION 1. The government of Free and Accepted Masons is reposed—

- 1st. In Grand Lodges; and
- 2d. In subordinate or particular lodges.

SEC. 2. A Grand Lodge is a body of Masons in whom is inalienably vested the government and superintendence of the fraternity within its territorial jurisdiction, and is primarily composed of its Grand officers, and the Master and Wardens, or their proxies, of the subordinate lodges under its jurisdiction. It may also enlarge or diminish its numbers, at its pleasure, by a provision, or change of its Constitution.

SEC. 3. A subordinate or particular lodge consists of a Master, a Senior and Junior Warden, a Treasurer, a Senior and Junior Deacon, and as many members as may be convenient,

congregating and working by virtue of a warrant held under the Grand Lodge, having lawful jurisdiction over it, and at the place designated in the warrant, or by the Grand Lodge.

TITLE SECOND—OF MASONIC LAWS.

SEC. 4. The action of Freemasons in their Grand or subordinate lodges, or in their individual character, is regulated and controlled—

- 1st. By Ancient Landmarks.
- 2d. By written Constitutions and General Regulations; and
- 3d. By Usages, Customs, Rules, Edicts and Resolutions, having the force of General Regulations.

SEC. 5. The Ancient Landmarks, are those principles of Masonic government and polity, which are among the parts of Masonic law, or rule of government that may never be altered or disturbed, as for instance, the universal language of Masons, and those peculiar marks of distinction by which we are separated from the profane, and by which we are enabled to prove ourselves as the “Sons of Light.”

SEC. 6. Constitutions are those written compacts or laws, adopted by Freemasons for the government of a Grand Lodge, and its subordinate lodges and their members, including General Regulations that are constitutionally adopted, and intended to be permanent in their character.

SEC. 7. General Regulations, Usages, Customs, Rules, Edicts and Resolutions, are those Masonic Rules of action, adopted by competent authority, for local or temporary purposes, admitting of change at convenience, and not embraced in Ancient Landmarks or Constitutions, and are frequently termed By-Laws.

SEC. 8. The following are enumerated as among the Ancient Constitutions having the force of Ancient Landmarks of the fraternity, as such, having been generally received and acknowledged by Masons:

- 1st. That belief in the Supreme Being, “The Great Architect of the Universe,” who will punish vice and reward virtue, is an indispensable prerequisite to admission to Masonry.

2d. That the moral law, which inculcates charity and probity, industry and sobriety, and obedience to law and civil government, is the rule and guide of every Mason, and to which strict conformity is required.

3d. That obedience to the Masonic law and authority being voluntarily assumed, is of perpetual obligation.

4th. That the rights and ceremonies (which include the unwritten language,) of the true system of the Ancient York Rite, and which constitute a part of the body of Masonry, are immutable, and that it is not in the power of any man or body of men to make innovations therein.

5th. That contentions and lawsuits between brethren are contrary to the laws and regulations of Masonry.

6th. That charity is the right of a Mason, his widow and orphans, when poor and destitute, to demand, and the duty of his prosperous brother to bestow.

7th. That Masonic instruction is, like charity, a reciprocal right and duty of Masons.

8th. That to visit Masonically is an inherent right of Masons; but no visitor shall be received into a lodge if any member present object.

9th. That men made Masons, must be of mature age, free-born, of good report, hale and sound, not deformed or dismembered, and no eunuch.

10th. That the Grand Master may make Masons at sight, and may grant a dispensation to a lodge for the same purpose, but in other cases a candidate must be proposed in open lodge, at a stated meeting, and can only be accepted at a stated meeting following, by the scrutiny of secret ballot, and an unanimous vote, and must pay a fixed price before admission.

11th. It is the duty of every Mason to be a contributing member of some lodge.

12th. That a Mason who is not a member of a lodge, is still subject to the disciplinary power of Masonry.

13th. That the Master and Wardens of every warranted lodge are of right and inalienably, representatives in and members of the Grand Lodge.

14th. That no one can be elected Master of a warranted lodge

(except at its first election,) but a Master Mason who shall have served as a Warden.

15th. That every Mason must be tried by his peers; hence the Master cannot be tried by his lodge.

16th. That no appeal to the lodge can be taken from the decision of the Master, or the Wardens occupying the chair in his absence.

17th. That Masonic intercourse with a clandestine or expelled Mason, is a breach of duty, and an offence against Masonic law.

18th. That a restoration of the privileges of Masonry by the Grand Lodge, does not restore to membership in the subordinate lodge.

19th. That a failure to meet by a lodge for one year, is cause for the forfeiture of its warrant.

20th. That it is the duty as well as the right of every warranted lodge to be represented in the Grand Lodge at its communications.

21st. That a Grand Lodge has supreme and exclusive jurisdiction, within its territorial limits, over all matters of Ancient Craft Masonry.

22d. That no appeal lies from the decision of the Grand Master in the chair, or his Deputy or Warden, occupying the chair in his absence.

23d. That the office of Grand Master is always elective, and should be filled annually by the Grand Lodge.

24th. That a Grand Lodge composed of its officers and representatives, must meet at least once in each year, to consult and act concerning the interests of the fraternity in its jurisdiction.

25th. That all officers of Grand or subordinate lodges must be Master Masons.

26th. That no subject of a sectarian or political character can be discussed in a lodge, and any Mason proposing such a subject, renders himself liable to the disciplinary action of the lodge.

TITLE THIRD—OF GRAND LODGES.

SEC. 9. The powers and privileges of Grand Lodges are—

- 1st. Executive.
- 2d. Legislative ; and
- 3d. Judicial.

The exercise of these powers and privileges is defined in particular Constitutions and General Regulations, which it has an inalienable right to frame and adopt at its convenience, and to amend, alter, add to, or repeal, at its pleasure, under the limitations therein imposed, and are final and conclusive upon all parties concerned until altered or reversed by the Grand Lodge. But nothing can be adopted in derogation of the Ancient Landmarks ; nor can any legislative act or general regulation be passed, affecting the interest of the whole fraternity, except at a stated annual communication.

SEC. 10. All the executive powers of a Grand Lodge, when not in session, are reposed in its Grand Master.

SEC. 11. The legislative powers of a Grand Lodge extend to every case of legislation not delegated or reserved to subordinate lodges.

SEC. 12. The judicial powers of a Grand Lodge are of two kinds :

1st. Original—embracing all matters of controversy which may arise between any of the subordinate lodges under its jurisdiction, or the members of different lodges, and the enforcement of discipline upon its own members, and the lodges under its jurisdiction, and upon individual Masons ; Provided, That this clause shall not be so construed as to deprive a subordinate lodge of the right to enforce discipline upon any of its members, except the Master or Grand Master while in office ; and

2d. Appellate—embracing all matters of controversy and discipline, proper for Masonic investigation, arising in any subordinate lodge, and over which it has not exercised original jurisdiction.

SEC. 13. All governmental powers, whether executive, legislative or judicial, not expressly delegated by the Grand Lodge, are inherent in and reserved to it as the supreme governing body.

TITLE FOURTH—OF SUBORDINATE LODGES.

SEC. 14. The powers and privileges of a subordinate or par-

ticular lodge are such as are defined in its warrant; and by the Constitution of the Grand Lodge granting the same; and the Ancient Landmarks and General Regulations; and are divided into—

1st. Executive—in the direction and performance of its work under the control of its Master, and in all other matters in aid of the Master, who has the primary executive power of a lodge;

2d. Legislative—embracing all matters relating to its internal concerns, not in derogation of the Ancient Landmarks, the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Lodge, and its own particular By-Laws; and

3d. Judicial—embracing the exercise of discipline, and settlement of controversies between and over all its members (except the Master,) and over all Masons and non-affiliated brethren within its jurisdiction, subject to an appeal to the Grand Lodge.

SEC. 15. Lodges shall take precedence according to the seniority of their respective warrants.

SEC. 16. A lodge can only be organized by—

1st. The dispensation of the Grand Master, or Deputy Grand Master.

2d. The warrant of the Grand Lodge having jurisdiction; and in either case only upon the application of not less than seven regular Master Masons.

SEC. 17. A lodge can only be dissolved—

1st By the act of the Grand Lodge, whereby its warrant is forfeited.

2d. By a voluntary surrender of its warrant. But no lodge can surrender its warrant, so long as seven regular Master Masons, including the present or a Past Master, or a present or a former Warden, are desirous of retaining it.

SEC. 18. The acts by which a warrant may be forfeited, are—

1st. Contumacy to the authority of the Grand Master or Grand Lodge.

2d. Departure from the original plan of Masonry, and Ancient Landmarks.

3d. Disobedience to the Constitutions; or

4th. Ceasing to meet for one year.

The surrender or forfeiture of a warrant when declared by the

Grand Lodge ; or the expiration of the term for which a dispensation had been issued, (unless a charter or warrant is granted by the Grand Lodge,) or the withdrawing of the same by the Grand Master, shall be conclusive upon the lodge and its members, and carries with it all the property of the lodge which becomes the property of the Grand Lodge, and must, on demand, be surrendered by the last Master, or whoever has it in custody, to the Grand Lodge, or its authorized agent.

SEC. 19. No warrant of a lodge can be forfeited except upon charges regularly made in the Grand Lodge, at its annual communication, of which due notice shall be given the lodge, and an opportunity of being heard in defence ; but it may be suspended by the Grand Lodge, or Grand Master, or Deputy Grand Master, at any time upon proper cause shown, which suspension shall not extend beyond the next annual communication.

SEC. 20. A lodge may not remove its place of meeting from the city, town or village named in its warrant ; nor from one place to another in the same city, town, or village, except by a concurrent vote of two-thirds of the members present, at a stated meeting, or at a meeting to be appointed, for which a summons shall be issued stating its object, which summons must be served at least ten days previous to such meeting, and such removal from the city, town, or village, must receive the sanction of the Grand Lodge, or Grand Master previous thereto.

SEC. 21. A lodge has full power and authority to enact By-Laws for its own government, conformable to its Grand Lodge Constitutions and the principles of Masonry, and any By-Law inconsistent therewith, is absolutely void.

SEC. 22. A lodge has power to make but five new brethren at the same time, without a dispensation from the Grand Master, nor shall the second or third degrees be conferred until the candidate has proved his proficiency in the preceding degrees by a satisfactory examination in open lodge, except by dispensation from the Grand Master or his Deputy.

SEC. 23. A lodge may not initiate any person without due inquiry into his qualifications ; nor shall any visitor be admitted without satisfactory proof that he is in good standing in his lodge, or was, in the last lodge of which he was a member ; nor shall

any non-affiliated Mason be permitted to visit any one lodge in this jurisdiction more than three times while he remains thus non-affiliated, who is a permanent resident within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge.

SEC. 24. The Masters, Wardens, Treasurer, and Secretary of subordinate or particular lodges, must be elective; other offices may be filled as the By-Laws of said lodge may prescribe. All elective officers must be chosen annually by ballot, and by a majority of votes. All appointed officers must be chosen immediately after the installation of the Master. All officers should, if practicable, be installed on or before the next stated communication after they shall have been chosen.

SEC. 25. A lodge may fill vacancies in office, except those of Master and Wardens, (as their By-Laws may prescribe,) at any stated communication, upon full notice to the members.

SEC. 26. Every member of a lodge in good standing is entitled to one vote, and every voter is eligible to any office in the lodge, except that of Master. None but Master Masons and those who have signed the By-Laws can be members of a subordinate or particular lodge.

SEC. 27. The ballot for candidates or membership is strictly and inviolably secret, and to elect must be unanimous.

SEC. 28. No lodge can receive, refer, or act upon a petition for initiation or membership, or ballot for initiates, officers, or membership, or adopt any resolution affecting the By-Laws of the Lodge, at any other than a stated communication. Every lodge should meet at least once in every month for the dispatch of business.

SEC. 29. No lodge can, at a special meeting, alter or expunge any part of the proceedings of a stated one.

SEC. 30. In the absence of, vacancy in the office, or inability of the Master, the Senior and Junior Wardens will, in succession, succeed to his prerogatives and duties for all purposes. In the absence of all three of the aboved named officers, the lodge may be opened by one of its Past Masters.

SEC. 31. No lodge shall confer the degrees for a less sum than fifteen dollars; nor upon credit, or receive a promissory note therefor in lieu of money, nor distribute its funds among its mem-

bers, nor introduce ardent spirits within its lodge room, or any room adjoining, or meet for Masonic labors, other than deeds of charity, on the Sabbath, or first day of the week.

SEC. 32. A lodge under dispensation is but a temporary and inchoate body, and is not entitled to representation in the Grand Lodge, and those who work it do not forfeit their membership thereby in any other lodge while it so continues, but such membership is thereby suspended.

TITLE FIFTH—OF PENALTIES.

SEC. 33. The penalties imposed by Masonic law, are—

1st. Reprimand, which may be done privately or in open lodge, by the Master.

2d. Suspension, which is either limited or indefinite; and

3d. Expulsion, which always implies a termination not only of his Masonic intercourse and connection with the body inflicting it, but from the Masonic fraternity, unless an appeal be made.

SEC. 34. Suspension applies to lodges as well as to individuals, and when inflicted upon a lodge, it suspends all its members unless expressly excepted. Suspension and expulsion imply interdiction of all Masonic intercourse with delinquents while in force.

SEC. 35. Suspension is only inflicted when the offence is against some temporary regulation of the fraternity; expulsion follows a gross violation of the moral law, or the fundamental principles of Masonry, or attempts against any part of the framework of its government. Neither shall be published to any but Masons, except by permission of the Grand Lodge or Grand Master.

SEC. 36. A lodge may pronounce sentence of indefinite suspension, or expulsion, which shall be final unless appealed from within six months of the knowledge of the sentence, and reversed or modified on such appeal by the Grand Lodge. But the Grand Lodge may, on application, after one year from the sentence, restore any one suspended or expelled by a lodge or Grand Lodge, in its discretion.

SEC. 37. Arrears for one year's dues may subject a member to be stricken from the roll of his lodge; and such fact shall be stated in the annual return, and the lodge thereafter shall not be liable to the Grand Lodge for such dues, and the member shall thereupon become non-affiliated, but no act of expulsion shall be pronounced thereon for non-payment of dues only.

SEC. 38. Any poor brother, unable to pay the adjoining fee, may be received without such fee by any lodge as an honorary member thereof, by the unanimous vote of the brethren present, after one month's previous notice; and the lodge may excuse such brother from the payment of any dues, and shall not be liable to the Grand Lodge for such fees and dues.

SEC. 39. It being the duty of every Mason to belong to a lodge and contribute to its funds; therefore, any Mason who does not contribute to the funds or belong to some lodge, shall not be entitled to join in processions, or receive assistance, or Masonic burial.

TITLE SIXTH—OF TRIAL AND ITS INCIDENTS.

SEC. 40. All charges for unmasonic conduct, committed while the craft is at labor, shall be preferred by the Senior Warden, and all charges for such conduct, while the craft is at refreshment, (including the time intervening between the various meetings of the lodge,) shall be preferred by the Junior Warden.

SEC. 41. Any brother feeling himself aggrieved shall request the proper Warden of his lodge to prefer charges against the brother injuring him; and in case the Warden should refuse to act, the brother aggrieved has full authority to prefer such charges himself; should the accused, however, be acquitted, he may prefer a charge against his accuser for acting maliciously.

SEC. 42. When two brethren reside within the jurisdiction of different lodges, the brother aggrieved shall first apply to the Warden of the lodge to which the offending brother is amenable, and in case of that officer refusing to act, he may apply to his own lodge, and that lodge may by resolution, request the proper officer of the sister lodge to prefer the charges against the offending

brother, and in case of such a resolution, duly certified by the Worshipful Master and Secretary, being handed to the presiding officer of a sister lodge, it shall be his duty to take notice of the same and govern himself accordingly.

SEC. 43. The accused shall be permitted to engage a brother Master Mason to defend him, to answer the complaint, produce and cross-examine witnesses, obtain a reasonable delay, showing a sufficient cause for the same, and either by himself or counsel, address the lodge after the closing of the testimony, but never shall offensive allusions to, or insinuations against the lodge or a brother be permitted, and the Worshipful Master shall order the brother so offending to leave the lodge, and the Senior Warden may bring charges against such brother for unmasonic conduct.

SEC. 44. The accused cannot vote on his own case; but no other member of the lodge present can be excused from voting; but no lodge shall proceed to trial until by summons duly served, all members within its jurisdiction shall have been notified.

SEC. 45. Whenever a member of a lodge, or a brother Master Mason, under this jurisdiction, shall be accused of crime or offence, which if proved would subject him to suspension or expulsion, the proceedings in the premises shall be conducted, substantially, agreeably to the following rules:

RULE I. The accusation shall be reduced to writing, by a brother, and given in charge to the S. or J. W., in accordance with ancient usage, whose duty it shall be to present said charges to the lodge at the first regular meeting thereafter, and the lodge shall refer the same to a judicious committee for investigation. The committee shall serve, or cause to be served, on the accused, an attested copy of the charge or charges, together with a notice of the time and place of investigation, not less than fourteen days prior to the time appointed for such investigation; *provided* the residence of the accused shall be known, and shall be within the distance of fifty miles of the place where the lodge having the matter in charge, is located. If the residence of the accused be a greater distance than fifty miles from the place of hearing, but within the State, then a summons to appear and show cause may be served personally, or by depositing the same in the post office, addressed to the accused at the post office where

he resides, postage paid, not less than twenty days before the time of investigation, which being proved shall be deemed sufficient service. If his residence be out of the State and unknown, the lodge may proceed *ex parte*; but if known, a summons shall be served personally or by mail as aforesaid, not less than forty days before the time appointed for the investigation.

RULE 2. No person shall be present during the investigation before the committee except the members of the committee, the party accused, their counsel and the summoned witnesses.

RULE 3. Each witness shall be examined separately and apart from the other witnesses, if desired by the accused, and all testimony proper to be written shall be reduced to writing by the committee.

RULE 4. The accused shall have the benefit of counsel of any one who is a Master Mason in good standing, if he desire it; also of cross-examination, and rebutting testimony, before the committee, and of counsel in open lodge after the committee report, and before the vote is taken by the lodge. After having been heard in open lodge, the accused, his counsel, and all parties interested personally in the prosecution of the complaint, or related within the degrees of affinity or consanguinity, shall retire before the question is discussed or decided by the lodge.

RULE 5. An accused brother should be judged according to the evidence, and in accordance with the well recognized and sound principles of the common law; and since no brother can pronounce judgment upon his honor, contrary to his own conviction, it becomes the duty of every one, whether called upon or not, to lay before the committee such facts in regard to the case under investigation as he may be cognizant of, but such testimony must be given in presence of the accused or his counsel. Any brother failing to make known any facts pertinent to the question before the committee, should be held amenable to all the penalties of Masonic discipline.

RULE 6. In pronouncing upon the guilt or innocence of an accused brother, the roll of the lodge shall be called, beginning with the youngest Mason, and ending with the W. M., and every brother, as his name is called, shall rise, salute the Master, and pronounce his judgment upon his honor, as a Mason, "guilty," or "not guilty," of unmasonic conduct.

RULE 7. If the verdict be guilty, the lodge shall forthwith proceed, in its own prudent way, to declare and record the *degree* of punishment to be inflicted.

RULE 8. In no case shall the accused or his counsel be present when judgment is pronounced, and the revealing of any transaction of the lodge, with regard to voting in the case under consideration, shall be sufficient cause for *expulsion*.

RULE 9. If the verdict be tantamount to *suspension*, and an appeal be duly taken, an attested copy of the proceedings shall be sent up at the ensuing meeting of the Grand Lodge, for examination and final action. If tantamount to *expulsion*, like proceedings shall be furnished Grand Lodge, and it shall operate as a suspension only, until the affirmance of the Grand Lodge shall be obtained.

RULE 10. The Grand Lodge shall, within a reasonable time after an appeal shall have been perfected in cases of suspension, and in all cases of expulsion, proceed to examine the case as presented in the certified transcript, and make a just, equitable, and final decision of the matter.

RULE 11. Any brother deeming himself aggrieved by the decision of suspension, or by a decision refusing to suspend, may appeal to the Grand Lodge against such decision.

The appeal must be made in writing within six months after the decision complained of, and transmitted to the Grand Secretary ten days at least before the first day of the session of the Grand Lodge thereafter. A notice and copy of the appeal must, at the time, be sent by the appellant to the party against whose decision the appeal is made.

RULE 12. A reversal of the decision of the Lodge, made by the G. L., shall have the effect only to restore the accused to the general rights and privileges of Masonry, and not to membership within the body from which he was suspended or expelled, without its unanimous consent.

RULE 13. In cases of original investigation, when any testimony offered shall be objected to by either party, the committee shall fairly and impartially note the objection, and then receive the testimony under the objection.

RULE 14. Either party shall be entitled to process to compel

the attendance of witnesses, being members of the order, and the committee shall have full power to issue the same.

RULE 15. The Grand Lodge retains original jurisdiction in all cases of its own members, or of Masters of lodges while in office.

RULE 16. All provisions of this Constitution, conflicting with the foregoing rules and regulations, are hereby repealed.

SEC. 46. In no case shall the accused be present when judgment is pronounced, and the revealing of any transaction of the lodge, with regard to voting in the case under consideration, shall be sufficient cause for expulsion.

SEC. 47. No visiting brother, unless a witness, or as counsel for the accused, shall be admitted to the lodge while the trial is in progress, and neither counsel or witness, unless members of the lodge, shall remain within during voting.

SEC. 48. After a brother has been found guilty, the next question shall be that of punishment, beginning with the greatest, and on this question the ballot may be used, under the direction of the Worshipful Master, provided that a two-third vote shall be required to inflict the penalty of expulsion.

SEC. 49. Charges against the Master of a lodge can only be presented to the Grand Lodge, while he continues in office, or within one year thereafter.

TITLE SEVENTH—OF CHARITY.

SEC. 50. Every brother in good standing, and the wives, widows, and minor children of such, have a claim to charitable relief from the funds of the Grand Lodge, or any of its subordinates, upon presenting satisfactory evidence of their Masonic character or relations, and that they are in necessitous circumstances.

SEC. 51. When such a claim shall be made upon the funds of the Grand Lodge when in session, it shall be referred to the Grand Stewards and Grand Treasurer, who shall report thereon to the Grand Lodge at the same session.

SEC. 52. When such a claim shall be made in the recess, it shall be presented to the Grand Master, his Deputy, the Grand Wardens, or the Grand Secretary, who shall select three brethren,

* *Repetition of Rule #8 except for words "or his counsel"*

Past Masters, Master, or Wardens of lodges, who shall be a committee to examine and report thereon; and the Grand Treasurer shall pay any draft upon him for such relief made by them, and countersigned by the Grand Officer appointing them, not exceeding fifty dollars for any one object.

TITLE EIGHTH—OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

SEC. 53. The officers of a Grand Lodge are elected or appointed, and hold their offices for one year, or until their successors are chosen and installed.

SEC. 54. The elective officers of a Grand Lodge are—the Grand Master, (whose style is Most Worshipful,) Deputy Grand Master, Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary, (the style of all of whom is Right Worshipful.)

SEC. 55. The appointed officers of a Grand Lodge are, a Grand Chaplain, Grand Marshal, Grand Standard Bearer, Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Steward, Senior and Junior Grand Deacons, Grand Pursuivant, and Grand Tyler, (the style of all of whom is Worshipful.)

SEC. 56. Elective officers of the Grand Lodge must be chosen at its annual communication, by ballot, and by a majority of votes. Appointed officers are selected by the Grand Master. It may have such additional officers as its necessities or objects require, to be provided for by a general regulation.

SEC. 57. Installation of the officers of the Grand Lodge must take place during the annual communication at which they are selected; and vacancies may be filled by temporary appointment from the Grand Master till the next annual election.

TITLE NINTH—DUTIES AND POWERS OF GRAND OFFICERS.

SEC. 58. The Most Worshipful Grand Master has power to—
1st. Convene any lodge within the jurisdiction; to preside

therein ; to inspect their proceedings, and require their conformity to Masonic rules.

2d. To require the attendance of any Grand Officer in his visitations to subordinate lodges, and information respecting the duties of their offices.

3d. To make Masons at sight ; and may, by written dispensation, delegate this power to a lodge.

4th. To convene the Grand Lodge, by giving twenty days notice.

5th. To suspend a lodge, or a brother, until the next meeting of the Grand Lodge, when he shall present the reasons for such suspension in writing.

6th. To grant dispensations for new lodges, (when the Grand Lodge is not in session,) or for a lodge to change its place of meeting, (in accordance with section 20,) or for public processions or assemblies ; (except in cases of Masonic funerals, which shall not require a dispensation,) or for the election of Master or Wardens of subordinate lodges.

7th. To exercise all such other powers as are warranted or required of him by the Ancient Regulations, or customs of the craft ; provided always, that he shall have no power to suspend the operation of any By-Law of this Grand Lodge.

The duties of Grand Master are—

1st. To preside at all meetings of the Grand Lodge.

2d. To appoint all officers and committees of this Grand Lodge not otherwise provided for.

3d. To lay before the Grand Lodge, on the first day of their annual communication, or as soon thereafter as possible, a written message, therein detailing an account of his official acts during the recess, the state and condition of Masonry in the jurisdiction, and recommend to the Grand Lodge such measures as he may deem expedient and necessary.

4th. To give the casting vote in the Grand Lodge whenever on any question there shall be an equal number of votes.

5th. To visit each subordinate lodge in the jurisdiction at least once in the year.

6th. To exercise a supervisory control over the Grand Officers, instruct them in their various duties, and see that the same are performed.

SEC. 59. The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master's powers and duties are—

1st. He must attend the meetings of the Grand Lodge, and render the Grand Master such assistance as may be required of him.

2d. In case of the death or permanent removal from the jurisdiction of the Grand Master, he may exercise all the powers, and perform all the duties of Grand Master until the next meeting of the Grand Lodge.

3d. In the temporary absence of the Grand Master from the jurisdiction, he may, with the consent of the Grand Senior and Junior Wardens, call a meeting of the Grand Lodge, and exercise such other powers and duties appertaining to the office of Grand Master, as the interest of the craft may in his judgment demand.

SEC. 60. The Grand Wardens shall assist the Grand Master in the Grand Lodge, and attend him in the Grand Visitations when required, and discharge such other duties as appertain to their office. In the absence of the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Warden shall preside; and in his absence the Junior Warden shall preside.

SEC. 61. It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary—

1st. To record the proceedings of the Grand Lodge.

2d. To receive and keep a proper account of all moneys of the Grand Lodge, and pay over the same without delay to the Grand Treasurer, taking his receipt for the same.

3d. To keep a register in which to enter all warrants, dispensations or certificates, granted by the Grand Lodge, Grand Master, or Deputy Grand Master.

4th. To keep a register of all the subordinate lodges and their members, with a permanent number prefixed to each name, together with the age, occupation, residence, date of initiation, passing, raising, admission, withdrawal, expulsion, suspension, restoration, or death, returned for registry.

5th. To receive, file, and safely keep, all papers and documents of the Grand Lodge.

6th. To sign and certify all instruments of the Grand Lodge; and shall have the custody of the Seal of the Grand Lodge.

7th. To report annually to the Grand Lodge the amount of

moneys received by him, by items, and the specific sources from which it was received, and also the lodges that have neglected to render proper returns of their elections, members and dues, and such general information as to the state of the lodges, as may be proper for the information or action of the Grand Lodge.

8th. To conduct the correspondence of the Grand Lodge, under the direction of the Grand Master, in a Masonic manner.

9th. To attend, with all the necessary writings under his control, at all meetings of the Grand Lodge, on the requisition of the Grand Master; and also to attend upon the Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master, on Masonic business, when required.

10th. To transmit to the several Grand Lodges in correspondence with this Grand Lodge, a certificate of the election of Grand officers, immediately thereafter, containing their signatures respectively, and authenticated under his hand and the Seal of the Grand Lodge, with a request for a similar document from each of said Grand Lodges.

SEC. 62. It shall be the duty of the Grand Treasurer—

1st. To take charge of all the funds, property, securities, and vouchers of the Grand Lodge.

2d. To pay all orders duly drawn under general regulations, or special directions of the Grand Lodge.

3d. To attend on the Grand Lodge or its presiding officer, when required, with the books and all necessary documents relating to his office, and when required, the meeting of any committee whose duty it may be to act in relation to the fiscal concerns of the Grand Lodge.

4th. To report annually to the Grand Lodge the amount of his receipts and expenditures, by items, and from whom received, and to whom paid, and the amount of securities in his hands for funds invested by the Trustees.

5th. To execute and file with the Grand Secretary an official bond, with sureties, to be approved by the Trustees, conditioned on the faithful performance of his duties as Grand Treasurer.

6th. To pay and deliver, at the expiration of his term, to his successor in office, or such person as shall be designated by the Grand Lodge, all moneys, securities, evidences of debt, books, writing, and property of the Grand Lodge under his control, with all proper assignments, when necessary.

SEC. 63. It shall be the duty of the Grand Chaplain to attend the Grand Lodge, and to perform the religious services.

SEC. 64. It shall be the duty of the Grand Marshal—

1st. To proclaim the Grand Officers at their installation.

2d. To introduce the representatives of foreign Grand Lodges and visiting brethren of distinction; and

3d. To conduct the processions of the Grand Lodge.

SEC. 65. It shall be the duty of the Grand Standard Bearer to carry the grand banner of the order in processions and public ceremonies.

SEC. 66. It shall be the duty of the Grand Sword Bearer—

1st. To carry the sword in procession; and

2d. To perform such other duties as by ancient usage pertain to his office.

SEC. 67. It shall be the duty of the Grand Stewards—

1st. To examine into all applications made for charity to the Grand Lodge.

2d. To have immediate superintendence in the provision to be made for festivals.

SEC. 68. It shall be the duty of the Grand Deacons to assist within the body of the Grand Lodge in such duties as by usage appertain to their office.

SEC. 69. It shall be the duty of the Grand Pursuivant—

1st. To communicate with the Grand Tyler, and announce all applicants for admission, by their names, Masonic address, and connection.

2d. To take charge of the jewels and clothing, under the direction of the Grand officers.

3d. To attend all meetings of the Grand Lodge, and at other times, upon the requisition of the Grand Master or presiding officer.

SEC. 70. It shall be the duty of the Grand Tyler—

1st. To guard the door of the Grand Lodge on the outside; to report all persons claiming admission; to see that none enter unless duly authorized and properly clothed.

2d. To carry summons, and perform all customary services pertaining to his office.

3d. To attend all meetings of the Grand Lodge, and at other

times, upon the requisition of the Grand Master or presiding officer.

SEC. 71. The Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Pursuivant, and Grand Tyler, shall each receive such compensation for their services as the Grand Lodge shall direct.

SEC. 72. No amendment to the Constitution shall be made, or have effect, until it shall have been proposed in the Grand Lodge, at its annual communication, and concurred in by two-thirds of the members present. Said amendment shall then be printed with the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, and sent to all the lodges under the jurisdiction; and if approved by two-thirds of the members at the next annual communication, it shall then be in full force and effect.

PART SECOND—GENERAL REGULATIONS.

TITLE FIRST—OF THE REGULATIONS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MINNESOTA.

SEC. 73. The style of this Grand Lodge shall be "The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota."

SEC. 74. This Grand Lodge shall be composed of the Grand officers mentioned in sections 54 and 55 of this Constitution; and all Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, and the Master and Wardens, or their proxies, of all lodges subordinate to this Grand Lodge. A proxy must have arrived to the rank of Warden.

SEC. 75. Every officer and member of the Grand Lodge must be a member of a subordinate lodge within the jurisdiction.

SEC. 76. The Grand Lodge shall meet annually in the city of St. Paul, on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in January, at which meeting the Grand officers shall be selected and installed, and all matters affecting the craft in this jurisdiction, shall be considered and acted upon. Special communications may be

held at any other time, on the requisition of the Grand Master : but no business of legislation shall be transacted, or change of the Constitutions, regulations, or rules of government of the Grand Lodge or craft, shall be made, except at the Grand annual communication.

SEC. 77. Each lodge, represented either by their officers or their proxies, shall be entitled to three votes. If but two officers are present, and the third not represented by proxy, the officer highest in rank may have two votes. If two of said representatives be absent, the representative present shall cast the entire vote of the lodge.

SEC. 78. None but members of the Grand Lodge (past or present officers of other Grand Lodges excepted,) shall be present at the opening of the same, or during an election.

SEC. 79. No brother shall be admitted into the Grand Lodge but the members thereof, except by permission of the Grand Lodge. No brother residing in the vicinity of a lodge, and not a member of some lodge, shall be permitted to visit the Grand Lodge, except by special invitation.

SEC. 80. Each member of the Grand Lodge shall appear therein with his proper clothing and jewel.

SEC. 81. The jewels of the Grand Lodge shall be yellow, the collars and aprons of purple velvet. The jewels of the officers of subordinate lodges to be of silver ; the color of their collars blue, and of aprons, white trimmed with blue.

SEC. 82. All members of the Grand Lodge shall be entitled to one vote, except the appointed officers, who may not vote for the election of officers ; but the Grand Master has two votes. Past Grand Masters, Past Deputy Grand Masters, Past Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, shall each be entitled to one vote when in Grand Lodge ; but no Grand Officer, or Past Grand Officer shall be entitled to vote in a double capacity, but may elect in which capacity he will vote.

TITLE SECOND—OF REVENUE AND FUNDS.

SEC. 83. The revenue of this Grand Lodge shall be derived from the following sources :

For every charter or warrant.....	\$45 00
For every dispensation for a new lodge.....	20 00
And if a charter or warrant be afterwards granted	25 00
For every dispensation to confer the three degrees in one evening	5 00
For every Grand Lodge diploma	1 50
For every degree conferred by a lodge	1 00
Every lodge shall pay for each of its members of one year's standing.....	50

SEC. 84. Every lodge shall be accountable for the dues of its members. Lodges may make by-laws exempting its Secretary, Chaplain, and Tyler from the payment of dues; in such cases the lodge shall be exempt from liability to the Grand Lodge for such dues.

SEC. 85. The management of the permanent funds shall be vested in a Board of Trustees, denominated the Trustees of the Permanent Fund, said Board to be composed of the Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary.

SEC. 86. All funds invested for the Grand Lodge shall stand in the corporate name of the Grand Lodge. The Trustees shall deposit in the hands of the Grand Treasurer the security and vouchers of the said invested funds, and shall have the power to transfer, sell, or dispose of, or appropriate any part of the invested fund, without a vote of the Grand Lodge at the annual communication, in such cases only when the security, in the opinion of said Board, shall become insufficient or of doubtful character.

TITLE THIRD—OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

SEC. 87. That the following standing committees shall be appointed by the Grand Master, at the earliest practical period after the opening of such Grand annual communication :

1st. A committee of nine, to examine and report upon the returns of lodges.

2d. A committee of three upon work of lodges under dispensation.

3d. A committee of three to examine the books, vouchers, &c., of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary.

4th. A committee of two to examine visiting brethren.

5th. A committee of five on appeals and grievances.

6th. A committee of three on foreign correspondence.

7th. A committee of three on unfinished business.

8th. A committee of three on ancient landmarks.

9th. A committee of three on Masonic jurisprudence.

[9th. May report upon questions referred to them at the time, or succeeding session of the Grand Lodge.]

The committee on foreign correspondence shall report at the succeeding communication after their appointment.

TITLE FOURTH—MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS.

SEC. 88. All elections in this Grand Lodge shall be by ballot.

SEC. 89. Past Masters to be recognized by this Grand Lodge as such, are those who have been duly elected and installed. Provided, however, that this provision shall not affect the standing of such brethren as have been recognized as Past Masters by this Grand Lodge, at its previous communications.

SEC. 90. No Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft, initiated or passed in any lodge within the United States, shall be passed, or raised in any lodge under this jurisdiction, other than that in which he was initiated, unless he shall procure a recommendation from the lodge in which he was initiated, provided said lodge continues in existence.

SEC. 91. No one shall be eligible to the office of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior or Junior Grand Wardens, but Past Masters. Nor can the Grand Master be at the same time Master of a subordinate lodge.

SEC. 92. In all elections, a majority of the whole number of votes cast, shall be necessary to constitute a choice.

SEC. 93. The Grand Secretary, under the direction of the Grand Master, shall, at the opening of the session of the Grand Lodge, prepare a list of all the members of the Grand Lodge, with the number of votes affixed to which each member is entitled.

SEC. 94. No lodge shall be entitled to representation in the Grand Lodge that is in arrears for two years; but shall stand suspended until such time as it shall discharge such arrearages. The Grand Secretary shall notify such lodge, and if it does not appear by its representatives at the next annual communication thereafter, and discharge such arrearage, said lodge shall be stricken from the roll of lodges.

SEC. 95. The Grand Regulations, or By-Laws, of this Grand Lodge, may be amended at an annual communication, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

SEC. 96. All former Constitutions or Regulations of this Grand Lodge are hereby repealed.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE GRAND LODGE.

DEGREE OF PAST MASTER.

Resolved, That the retiring Master from the chair of any lodge who has been formerly invested with the degree of Past Master, may, with the assistance of two or more Past Masters, confer said degree upon his successor in office, in order to qualify him for the same; yet no such Past Master, or convocation of Past Masters, can confer said degree in any other case or for any other purpose whatever.—(*Proceedings of 1856, page 44.*)

LODGE RECORDS.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, the terms “adjourned,” “met by appointment,” “called off for two weeks,” (or any other time, except for actual refreshment,) are terms unknown to Masonry, and should not be used in Masonic lodges.—(*Proceedings of 1857, page 78.*)

PETITIONS OF CANDIDATES.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Grand Lodge, committees of inquiry upon petitions presented in subordinate lodges, should make particular personal inquiry into the moral, physical, intellectual and social qualifications of petitioners, and should not in any case, rest satisfied with merely negative virtues, but should become convinced that the candidates will add to our moral as well as our numerical strength.—(*Proceedings of 1857, page 79.*)

Resolved, That all applicants for the degrees in Masonry, shall reside within the jurisdiction of the subordinate lodge to which application is made, at least one year previous to making such application.—(*Proceedings of October, 1858, page 202.*)

WITHDRAWAL OF PETITIONS.

Resolved, That a petition for the degrees of Masonry cannot be withdrawn from a lodge, unless favorably reported upon by the committee of investigation, and then only by unanimous vote of the lodge.—(*Proceedings of January, 1858, page 127.*)

RENEWAL OF PETITIONS.

Resolved, That the time intervening between the rejection of a candidate in a subordinate lodge under this jurisdiction, and a re-application for the degrees in the same, shall be not less than six months.—(*Proceedings of October, 1858, page 201.*)

ON APPEALS.

Resolved, That in all cases of suspension or expulsion which may hereafter take place in any lodge in this jurisdiction, when the party delinquent appeals from the decision of his lodge, an official report of the trial, together with all the papers and proceedings in the case, should be transmitted forthwith to the Grand Secretary, by the Secretary of said lodge, to the end that speedy justice may be done by the Grand Lodge.—(*Proceedings of January, 1858, page 118.*)

LODGES U. D.

Resolved, That lodges U. D. applying to this Grand Lodge for charters, shall be hereafter required to send up their dispensations and records with their returns.—(*Proceedings of January, 1858, page 121.*)

Resolved, That in the organization of new lodges, the members of such lodges shall, before they are organized, withdraw from the lodges of which they were formerly members; and it shall be the duty of the officer appointed to install the officers of any new lodge, to require proper evidence of such withdrawal of all the members of such lodge, before installation, such evidence to be proper dimitts.—(*Proceedings of 1879, page 52.*)

APPOINTMENT OF GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

Resolved, That the M. W. Grand Master appoint Representatives from this Grand Body, to reside at or near, and represent us in other Grand Lodges, and respectfully request the appointment

of like Representatives to this Grand Lodge.—(*Proceedings of 1858, pages 203, 204.*)

NON-AFFILIATED MASONS.

Resolved, That no resident non-affiliated Mason shall be allowed to visit any subordinate lodge in this jurisdiction after he shall have resided in said jurisdiction six months.—(*Proceedings of October, 1859, page 285.*)

QUESTIONS BY WHOM TO BE DECIDED.

Resolved, That the brethren in this jurisdiction, in case of doubt on the construction of the written or unwritten laws of our institution, should apply to the legally constituted authorities of this Grand Lodge, and that application to brethren living under foreign jurisdiction is not only unnecessary, but if used for the purpose of fomenting strife and bitterness, highly unmasonic and censurable.—(*Proceedings of October, 1860, pages 367, 368.*)

FUNERALS.

Resolved, That the clothing of brethren at Masonic funerals shall be white aprons, white sashes and white gloves, with the exception of the officers, who shall wear their appropriate jewels.

ITINERANT LECTURERS

Resolved, That the lodges in this State are hereby prohibited from receiving the Masonic work, ritual or lectures, from any other than the constituted authorities of this jurisdiction.—(*Proceedings of October, 1861, page 435.*)

ON DUTIES OF ATTORNEYS.

Resolved, That any brother who is attorney and counselor within this jurisdiction, acting within the line of his duty as defined by law, is at liberty to undertake any cause that may seem to him to be just and legal, without regard to the character or standing of the party against whom he acts.—(*Proceedings of 1863, page 482, and page 531, 1864.*)

JURISDICTION OF A LODGE.

Resolved, That the jurisdiction of each subordinate lodge within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, shall extend to one-half the distance to the nearest lodge in every direction.

Resolved, That no subordinate lodge shall entertain an application for the degrees in Masonry from any person residing within the jurisdiction of another subordinate lodge, but after an applicant has been balloted for and accepted, the lodge so accepting him may consent to his receiving the degrees and holding membership in another lodge.—(*Proceedings of 1864, pages 529, 530.*)

Resolved, That lodges under dispensation have the same rights as to jurisdiction as chartered lodges, and no other.—(*Proceedings of 1865, page 550.*)

STATED MEETINGS.

Resolved, That no lodge in this jurisdiction shall retain in its by-laws any provision for more than two stated meetings in any one month.—(*Proceedings of 1865, page 545.*)

LODGES MAY REMIT DUES.

Resolved, That any subordinate lodge within this jurisdiction may remit the dues of any of its members who are unable to pay the same, and the Grand Lodge dues for such brethren will be remitted.—(*Proceedings of 1867, page 603.*)

STRIKING FROM ROLL.

Resolved, That a brother stricken from the roll, pursuant to section 36, of title 5, of the Constitution, can become a member again only by a regular petition, a favorable report, and a unanimous ballot.—(*Proceedings of 1867, page 591.*)

Resolved, That whenever notice shall be given of a motion to strike the name of a brother from the roll of the lodge, for failure to pay his dues, the secretary of the lodge shall immediately enclose a copy of such notice, stating that at a meeting of said lodge (giving the date when said meeting will be held) a motion will be heard, to strike the name from the roll. Said notice shall be enclosed in an envelope, addressed to him at his last place of residence, and deposited in the postoffice, postage prepaid. If, after the lapse of a reasonable time, no answer shall be received, the motion shall be heard and decided, and Masonic proof of the mailing of said notice, by the secretary, shall be necessary before the hearing; provided, that if the residence of the brother shall

be unknown, such service of notice may be dispensed with.—
(*Proceedings of 1877, page 66.*)

DUTIES OF COMMITTEE ON MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Grand Master, upon Masonic Jurisprudence, to whom shall be referred all questions relating to the customs, usages, privileges and laws of the fraternity, and the Grand Master shall make a report to the Grand Lodge at each annual communication, of all decisions made by him, upon questions of Masonic law, during the year, which shall be referred to said committee, and the decisions, with the report of the committee, shall be published in the proceedings of this Grand Lodge.—(*Proceedings of 1867, page 600.*)

AFFILIATION.

Resolved, That hereafter Masons shall not, in this jurisdiction, be permitted to join a lodge, until they shall first present lawful evidence that they have withdrawn from their former lodge.—
(*Proceedings of 1879, page 52.*)

DUAL MEMBERS.

Resolved, That the regulation heretofore adopted by this Grand Lodge, prohibiting dual membership is hereby rescinded, and all brethren who have joined another lodge without first withdrawing from their former lodges, be and the same are hereby recognized as members of both lodges. Provided, that in all cases where a member has been dropped from the rolls, this resolution shall not restore him to membership in his former lodge.—(*Proceedings of 1879, page 52.*)

INSTRUCTIONS.

The necessity of accuracy in keeping the records of the subordinate lodges, cannot be too forcibly impressed. The process of registration (which has been neglected for several years) has developed a carelessness not credible but for its patency. This *must* be remedied, and to that end the Grand Master issues the following instructions. Lodges and secretaries will govern themselves accordingly.

LODGE RECORDS.

The secretary of each lodge should have—

1st. A RECORD OR MINUTE BOOK.—This should be a well-bound volume, large enough to contain the records for several years, for reference in the future. In this book should be entered the transactions of each meeting, care being taken to enter the date of each communication, whether *stated* or *special*; the names, age, occupation, birthplace and residence of all petitioners; the names of the recommendors, and of the committee to whom referred. If the petition is for affiliation, the name, number and location of the lodge in which initiated, should be entered; and if the applicant has been a member of any lodge in this State, that fact should also be stated by entering the name and number. The candidate's progress should be entered, to the end that it may be traced, should occasion require.

To test the accuracy of the records, they *must be read* at each communication before the lodge is closed.

2d. A RECEIPT BOOK.—In which to take the treasurer's receipt for all moneys paid over to him. Punctuality in attendance is as much the business of the treasurer as it is of the secretary, and the latter officer should pay over all moneys received by him before the close of the meeting, taking a receipt, and noting the fact in his records.

3d. AN ACCOUNT BOOK.—In which to keep all the accounts of the lodge. In this book should be entered the name, as soon as the first degree is received, and he charged with the fee and credited with the amount, and so of subsequent degrees, and then charged with the dues and credited with amount paid, and when membership ceases the reason, as by withdrawal, death, &c., should be entered in this as well as in the minute book; particular care being given to *dates, day, month and year*, in all cases.

4th. A CONVENIENCE BOOK.—This book should be ruled in parallel columns, properly headed, to show at a glance the name, age, occupation and residence of all applicants, either for degrees or affiliation; the date of the presentation of petition; date of, and the action had; whether elected or rejected, and the date of the reception of each degree; of affiliating Masons, the name, number, and location of the lodge in which initiated; and under head of remarks, give the name and number of the lodge from which dimitted, if within this jurisdiction, provided it was not the lodge in which initiated.

The forms for petitions, if complied with, will furnish the preparatory data for this book.

A book thus prepared will facilitate the keeping of the registry book, and save a great deal of time in making out the annual returns.

5th. A REGISTRY BOOK.—This book is ruled in parallel columns, and headed exactly like the blank returns. In each column will be entered the date—day, month and year, as the events to be recorded, occur. None but Master Masons are entitled to registry, or lodge number, (2d column.) Hence none but names of Master Masons are entered in the register, and that must be done consecutively according to priority in the date of receiving the Master's degree or affiliation. The lodge number thus indicates the successive rank in membership of each individual, according to date—raising or affiliation. The column headed "Joined," is intended for the date of affiliation of those adjoining from other lodges.

This book is for entries by the secretary himself, and if he keeps a "convenience book," can be kept up regularly without the consumption of time.

Registers and convenience books are furnished by the Grand Lodge, at cost.

6th. BOOK OF BY-LAWS.—In this should be written the by-laws of the lodge. This book should be kept in the lodge room ready for the signatures of all brethren raised in or affiliating with the lodge, at the time of such action.

System and accuracy are almost synonymous, as one begets the other, and secretaries, with this series of lodge books, will find a saving of both time and labor.

ANNUAL RETURNS.

Many secretaries bestow an unnecessary amount of labor on the returns, of itself of not so much consequence, perhaps, but it imposes a vast amount of unnecessary labor upon the Grand Lodge "committee on returns of subordinate lodges," and also upon the Grand Secretary in recording. Returns are sent to the Grand Lodge that must have required days to make up, when the work actually required would not have taken an hour to copy from the register. Not one omission or inaccuracy need occur, if secretaries pay ordinary attention to their duties. With system all the work required of a secretary can be done during the hours of the communication. And to insure a faithful performance of their duties, the Grand Master would recommend to each subordinate lodge that they allow the secretary a certain fixed compensation.

Returns must be made out to the first day of January of each year and sent to the Grand Secretary, that he may examine them before the meeting of the Grand Lodge. Blanks will be furnished on application to the Grand Secretary.

The lodge register commences with the date of organization under charter; the first entries are the names of petitioners, and then the work done, entered and numbered according to priority of receiving the third degree.

The annual returns are copied from the lodge register. The first year all the names on the register, commencing with lodge No. 1, to January 1st, of the year, are included in the return, even if they have been previously reported, as U. N. D. returns are not registered. The next year commence with January 1st, and return *only the work of the year*, which includes all initiations, paasings, raisings, adjoinings, withdrawals, deaths, &c.

Names of Master Masons *once returned should not again be sent up*, unless the membership ceases; in that case *only* the

name, *Grand Lodge*, and *lodge number*, and *date* of the cessation of membership, in the appropriate column, are required. In the returns affixed to the names of Master Masons made, must be the date of initiating, passing or raising, even if the dates of initiating or passing have been previously returned. It takes but a moment for a secretary to do this, while copying from his register; if not done, the Grand Secretary is obliged to hunt up the dates from previous returns. Our lodges are now so numerous that looking up dates of past initiations or passings among the mass of returns, would occupy too much time, particularly as the trouble can be obviated by a moments labor below.

The Grand Lodge registry contains the names of over 7,000 Masons. The Grand Lodge numbers are fixed, never changed. A brother may dimit and adjoin another lodge, his Grand Lodge number remains the same; and in re-recording his name from his new lodge in the register, we must look back to find his Grand Lodge number. Hence the necessity of *affixing* to the names of affiliating brethren, the name, number, and location of the lodge in which initiated, and if formerly a member of any lodge in this jurisdiction, to state the fact, giving the name and number thus: "49; John Smith; 53; Merchant, Me.; Wilton; June 19, 1868; Washington, No. 8, N. Y.; Hope, 42, Minn." The Grand Secretary then refers to letter S, in the register, Hope, 42, and readily finds the Grand Lodge number of John Smith, checks it, and affixes it to the new registration; otherwise he has to look over the entire list of names beginning with S, numbering several hundred, to find whether John Smith has been previously registered.

Lodges are chargeable with dues for all its members, and will continue to be so charged until membership ceases, and the fact returned to the Grand Lodge. It is not sufficient to report five, (more or less,) withdrawn, &c., but the names, Grand Lodge and lodge number must be given, and the *date* of the occurrence.

The Grand Master urges upon secretaries to record the full name of all Masons hereafter made or affiliated. "J. Smith" may mean John, or Jacob, or Joseph, &c. The first name should in all cases, be given in full, not merely the initials. There are quite a number of J. Jones, J. Smith, &c., in the State. And

where dates are required, be particular as to *day, month* and *year*.

Masters of subordinate lodges *are charged to see* that the necessary books are had, and properly kept, and that the foregoing instructions are *strictly* complied with.

VOTING.

But three methods of voting are known in a Masonic lodge, viz. :

- 1st. The secret ballot.
- 2d. The uplifted right arm, or ancient sign ; and
- 3d. By calling the roll.

The first is used in acting on petitions and awarding punishment.

The second in the business of the lodge. And

The third when as directed by the Grand Lodge Constitution.

Divulging his ballot subjects a brother to lodge discipline ; *provided*, that a brother voting in the negative may, of his own volition, state his reasons for so doing ; but that had (if at all) better be done *before* than after a ballot.

Upon the rejection of a candidate, the W. . M. . shall permit no remarks to be made, except as in the above proviso.

It is not absolutely necessary to ballot upon an application on the same evening that the report is made. The W. . M. . may, in his discretion, or on the request of a member of the lodge, postpone the ballot until the next stated communication.

DIPLOMA DISTINGUISHED FROM DIMIT.

A diploma is an instrument made for preservation, and may be used as collateral evidence in proof of good standing, while living, and for the benefit of the family after the brother's decease. It should be signed by the three principal officers of the lodge, attested by the signature of the secretary and seal of the lodge ; and to which is attached a certificate of the Grand Secretary under the seal of the Grand Lodge.

A dimit is simply a receipt for moneys paid, and requires only the signature of the secretary and seal of the lodge.

THE PROPER OFFICER TO PRESENT AND PROSECUTE CHARGES FOR UNMASONIC CONDUCT.

All charges for unmasonic conduct against a brother, must be in writing—provided it is proper to be written, and should clearly and distinctly state the offence or offences complained of, and

should be signed by the brother making the same. The charges should be given to the S. or J. W., whose duty it is to present said charges in proper form to the lodge, as prescribed in the rules governing "trials and its incidents," title 6, Grand Lodge Constitution.

All charges for unmasonic conduct, committed while the craft is at labor, should be presented by the S. W., and all charges for such conduct during the time the craft is at refreshment, should be presented by the J. W.

THE PROPER TIME TO SIGN THE BY-LAWS.

Each subordinate lodge should have a book in which the by-laws of the lodges are neatly written. The by-laws are of no force unless approved by the Grand Master. And all amendments made to the by-laws, must be approved before they are of any validity.

The petitioner for degrees, or membership, is entitled to a copy of the by-laws. Our Grand Lodge Constitution provides that "none but Master Masons, and who have signed the by-laws, can be members of a subordinate lodge." The book of by-laws should be present at each meeting, to the end that those who have been elected to membership, or raised to the third degree, may have the opportunity to affix their signatures.

WHEN DISPENSATIONS EXPIRE.

Dispensations for lodges U. D. expire with the commencement of the session of the Grand Lodge; and no work can be done, after a charter is granted, until the lodge is constituted, and its officers legally installed.

LODGE U. D. CANNOT ADMIT MEMBERS.

The officers of a lodge working under dispensation, cannot be installed. The powers and privileges of a lodge under dispensation are limited to those specifically named in the dispensation, and cannot affiliate members.

WHEN ELECTIONS CAN BE HELD.

Elections can only be held at the time prescribed by the Constitution or by-laws. For good cause stated, the Grand Master may permit a lodge to hold an election at some time other than that prescribed in the by-laws.

OBJECTION TO THE ADMISSION OF VISITORS.

A Master Mason within the body of a lodge of which he is a

member, has the right to object to the admission of a visiting brother, and may, or may not, at his own option, assign his reasons for so doing.

OBJECTION TO THE ADMISSION OF A MEMBER.

A brother may object to the admission of a member of his own lodge, but such objection imposes upon the lodge an absolute necessity to investigate the matter, and to visit the offending brother with Masonic discipline.

PUBLIC PROCESSIONS.

A lodge has no right to appear in a public procession without the permission of the Grand Master. This rule has been relaxed in this jurisdiction so far as to permit the burial of a brother without first obtaining such permission.

MEMBERS OF GRAND LODGE MUST WEAR THEIR JEWEL.

Not only the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, but the Ancient Regulations, require the representatives to the Grand Lodge to appear with their collar and jewel. This regulation has been neglected a few years past. It must be complied with for the future.

NOT TO LEAVE LODGE DURING SESSION.

Brethren should not leave the lodge until its close, without urgent necessity for so doing, remembering the ancient charge, "and not desert the Master until the work is finished."

NON-AFFILIATED MASONS AMENABLE.

Every Mason residing within the jurisdiction of a lodge, is amenable to it for his Masonic conduct. Hence a non-affiliated Mason can be dealt with for violation of Masonic polity the same as a member of the particular lodge under whose jurisdiction he resides, or is temporarily sojourning.

CONSTITUTIONS TO BE READ.

In conclusion, the Grand Master urges upon the Masters of the lodges, not only the propriety, but necessity, of familiarizing the brethren with the laws of Masonry, and to that end recommends that the "Ancient Charges" be read at each initiation, as it was done in days of yore, and that the Constitution of the Grand Lodge be read at least quarterly.

