

**That Resignation.**

It will be a source of gratification to every one to read the following announcement from Bro. J. H. Mills, which we find in the Raleigh News. Though sorely pressing to Bro. Mill's private business, we know him to be the right man in the right place, and it was a great source of pleasure to us to read the following letter:

"Yes, I did, and do still desire to live at home and attend to my business. As my neighbors wished me to teach their children, I felt disposed to do so, and sent in my resignation according to your announcement, so I began to prepare for a transfer of the business to my successor. But some unexpected event occurred, and some facts not known before were ascertained, and I was convinced that a change of administration could not be made at this time without suspending and seriously damaging the orphan work. A new man could give new impetus to the work, but he could not at first understand some negotiations now pending and he might not be able to gather up the reins while the horses are trotting over dangerous ground. Besides, I am tenderly attached to the children, and I hope the day will never come in which personal comfort or pecuniary profit would induce me to desert an orphan, in the hour of danger, or distress.

I am also exceedingly grateful to those liberal contributors, by whose benefactions the work has now been carried on for nearly four years. I feel that I would be unfaithful to them and unworthy of the confidence reposed in me, if I should take any step injurious to the work. So I am still the servant of the orphans and the people.

I am sorry to add that Hezekiah Strickland, of Duplin, died last night and was buried to day, the 21st. He was a good boy, and the matron and his faithful teacher, Miss Clewell, nursed him tenderly. Dr. Land exhausted his medical skill; but the Lord took him home, and Rev. R. W. Marsh preached his funeral. Now six little sleepers fill the orphan's grave yard. This leaves one hundred and six orphans at Oxford—all healthy and hearty. J. H. MILLS.

**Light.**

How necessary is light in our earthly architecture! How much effect and beauty depends on the modulations, as I may call them of natural light, or the skillful arrangements of artificial light. But in that heavenly architecture there shall be perfect light, the lustrous yet un-jazzling—the continual, yet unwearying light of God's presence.

The effort of all good people on earth is to bring earth nearer to Heaven, and to reflect Heaven's light on earth. As God said, "Let there be light, and there was light," so it is ours, my Brethren, as good men and Masons to say and to act, "Let there be light," that God's light may shine forth upon earth; and be kindled here, to be intensified and perfected there. To know God in his word and in his works, is to walk in the light; to help others to do this is to be spreading the true light; to educate the poor and ignorant, to relieve the distressed, to have large and sympathetic thoughts toward all men, this is to lift the dark clouds of ignorance, prejudice and meanness, and to be preparing for the light of heaven.

"There no clouds nor passing vapor,  
Dim the brightness of the air;  
Endless noontide, glorious noontide  
From the sun of suns is there."  
REV. A. H. ETTY.

**ALABAMA.**

The following decisions were made by Grand Master Wilson, of Alabama, and in the main are very good Masonic law. We think, however, that no officer can dimitt during the term of his office:

There is no rule or edict of this Grand

Lodge requiring a Subordinate Lodge to defer action against a member because a prosecution may be pending against him in the Civil Courts. Whenever charges are preferred against a Brother, the Lodge must proceed to hear the case under the rules prescribed, without reference to any action or proceedings which may be had in the courts of the country.

A Lodge within whose jurisdiction a Mason resides, can try him for any offense committed within its jurisdiction, notwithstanding the fact that the Lodge to which he belongs granted him a dimit subsequent to the commission of the offense.

It only requires a majority vote of a Lodge, provided the constitutional number are present, to convict a Brother upon trial.

A judgment of a Court of law, or a decree in chancery, may be introduced in a Masonic trial, simply for the purpose of showing that such judgment or decree had been rendered.

That neither of the first three officers of a Subordinate Lodge can dimitt during the term of his office.

No petition for initiation can be withdrawn, or otherwise disposed of, except by ballot, after it has been received by the Lodge. An unfavorable report does not supersede the necessity of a ballot.

A Subordinate Lodge has no power or authority to try a Master for any official misconduct, however illegal or unauthorized such conduct may have been, neither while he is Master, nor after his term of office expires.

Dueling is an offense against the moral law, as revealed in the 'Great Light'; it is, therefore, a Masonic offense, and for which a Brother is amenable to such discipline as the Lodge may see proper to inflict, even to expulsion from the Order.

A candidate rejected in a Lodge in one jurisdiction, and subsequently made a Mason in another jurisdiction without the consent of the Lodge wherein rejected, is an illegally made Mason.

The ballot should be strictly secret. A Brother violates the secrecy of the ballot by stating how he voted, and should not be permitted to give his reasons for so doing.

While visitation is certainly a right it is subordinate to the rights of the members, but the objection is only in force while the member is present. No member can enter a permanent objection and thus prevent a Brother from visiting the Lodge when the objector is absent.

The burden of proof in all Masonic trials is upon the Lodge. The guilt of the accused is not to be presumed, but must be established by competent and satisfactory evidence before a conviction can be had.

To authorize the trial of a Brother for an offense committed before he was made a Mason, it must be for an offense involving moral turpitude of which the Lodge had no notice at the time the degrees were conferred, and could not have ascertained by reasonable diligence and proper inquiry.

A Mason's family can have no Masonic privileges, except through the Mason himself. Therefore, when a Mason dies, being at the time under suspension for non payment of dues, his family cannot, after his death, pay up his dues, and thereby restore themselves to such Masonic privileges as they would have been entitled to, if he had died in good standing in the Lodge.

No Brother, if present, can be excused from voting upon the reception of a candidate. And any Brother persisting in a refusal to vote in such a case, renders himself liable, and charges should be preferred for a violation of his obligation.

The voluntary confession made before trial may be introduced as evidence against the accused on trial for a Masonic offense.

A Mason should not be prejudged, nor subjected to any punishment until he has been found guilty. Therefore, a Brother may visit and take part in the proceedings of his Lodge though 'under charges,' until a trial and conviction is had.

An Entered Apprentice is not entitled to a dimit; but in case of his removal from the jurisdiction of the Lodge in which he was initiated, the Lodge may furnish him a certificate, setting forth the fact of his initiation.

The status of a non-affiliated Mason who has applied to a Lodge and been rejected, is the same as it was before he made the application. He may apply again as soon as he wishes and whenever he desires."

**OBITUARY.**

Died at his father's residence, about six miles south of Greensboro, on Monday evening, July 17th, DR. SYLVESTER HIGGINS, in the 45th year of his age. The funeral and burial services were conducted in the afternoon by the undersigned. Dr. H was a native of New York, but had lived a good many years in this vicinity. He spent twelve or fourteen years in South America, prosecuting his studies and researches in the interest of Medical Science, and there, perhaps, contracted the disease of which he died. The doctor was never married. Upon his return from South America he settled in Charlotte, N. C., and lived there for the last several years. His sufferings were great and protracted but he bore them with exemplary patience and christian resignation. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church. (North.) I am informed by christian gentlemen who were with him during his last illness (for I was not personally acquainted with him,) who knew him well, and were often with him, that his whole deportment was that of a Christian,—that he frequently expressed his faith and hope, and his readiness to go or stay as it might please the Lord—that he was regular and strict in his devotional duties, and suffered and talked and died as a christian. He was conscious until almost the last, and spoke words of comfort and cheer to the dear ones he left behind—specially to his sister ELLA, whom he tenderly loved, and commended her to the grace of his Heavenly Father and hers.  
J. HENRY SMITH.

July 22d, 1876.



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