

Litchimuke Augth 20 / 50

Bro. Palmer

Yours of 5th Inst. has just come to hand, advising me of the "proceedings of a meeting held at Lafayette for the purpose of taking steps to procure a Charter for a Lodge to be organized at that place," and you state that "in the petition you ask that I be made Worshipful Master, and that the members wish to ascertain whether it meets my approbation"

I am deeply sensible of the honor intended in thus naming me in your petition — Always zealous for the advancement of Free Masonry it would be much more consonant with my feelings to perform my duties as an individual member than to hold any office, particularly one so high and involving so much responsibility as that of "Worshipful Master" — But I will never shrink from the performance of the duties of any office which the Brethren may see proper to confer upon me unless there should be objections insurmountable to my accepting the office — Such objections I fear exist in this case, which I will briefly state —

1st I have never taken any degrees beyond that of Master Mason and I have always understood that the Ancient Constitutions require that one to be capable of holding that office should have the degree of "Past-Master;" and it is customary in the Lodges in the States when a Master Mason is elected to the office of Worshipful Master, for him to take the degree of "Past-Master" before entering upon the duties of the office - I don't know whether there are any Masons here qualified to confer the degree of Past-Master; I know there are many Past-Masters in the Territory but whether they are authorized to confer that Degree out of Lodge I don't know - It is true a "Senior Warden" being a Master Mason may act in the absence of the Worshipful Master as Master ex officio

2nd I very much fear that if the foregoing objection were removed that I am incapable of performing the duties of that office satisfactorily on all points -

Brody The distance is so great to
Safayette that I fear I would not
be able to attend regularly —

I have now given you the
most prominent objections that
present themselves to my mind
and I am sorry that the Brethren
were not aware of them before
they forwarded the petition —

As to the first objection I
expect to go below in about a
week when I will see Dr. Tyson
who can give me all necessary
information in regard to the matter
and I will probably see you either
in going or returning

My respects to your
Lady and Mr. Taylor

I have the honor to be
Yours Fraturnally

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