

Rite for that country, and consequently allied themselves with it—in fact, resuscitated it. For thus exercising the right of private judgment, these men have been branded as traitors to the Craft, by a set of self-elected and self-appointed rulers in Scottish Rite Masonry.

We regard this system of expelling men, and, by so doing, injuring the fair name of a brother, as a most high-handed and unwarrantable proceeding, and we regret to notice that the same system of tactics has been followed by the Supreme Grand Council of the A. and A. Rite of Canada. At the present moment we are not aware how many brethren have been thus branded, but we understand this august assembly ventured to expel Bro. Geo. C. Longley, 33°, of Prescott, although, we know, that from conscientious convictions he withdrew some time ago from the Rite, as he believed it to be a spurious and illegitimate body. Now, surely, it stands to reason that a man having separated all connection with a Rite, is at liberty to unite himself with any other, if he conscientiously believes that that other is legitimate.

In this article we do not propose to enter into the legitimacy or illegitimacy of any of the three Supreme Grand Councils of the A. and A. Rite 33° now claiming sovereign Masonic jurisdiction over the Dominion of Canada. The subject is one that we may hereafter discuss, but at the present time we wish to protest against these expulsions and the system of publishing the names of honored Craftsmen in the public newspapers as “expelled,” thus casting a

slur upon their Masonic character and integrity.

We are convinced that such men as Bro. L. H. Henderson, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Grand Council of the A. and A. Rite for the Dominion of Canada and the Province of Newfoundland, would not have allied himself with this organization unless he believed it to be a genuine branch of the Cerneau Supreme Grand Council, whose legitimacy was never questioned till of late years; nor do we believe for a moment that Bro. Geo. C. Longley, the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Grand Commandery of the A. and A. Rite 33° for British North America, would have severed his connection with the Supreme Grand Council of the A. and A. Rite 33° for Canada, if he had not, after due research, felt that that Body had no legitimate standing. For any one of these Sovereign Scottish Bodies to “set up” in the “expulsion business” is, to say the least of it, impolitic. The history of the Scottish Rite is not one that will stand the glare of the mid-day sun, and it is unwise to raise the dead or reveal the past. It is now very generally acknowledged, and there are many good men in its ranks, but we all know that a few years ago its degrees were peddled about the country by impecunious, and, in many instances, unscrupulous Masons. It is, therefore, most unwise to tear open the gaping wound that was almost ready to heal. We trust we have heard the last of this ridiculous, childish expulsion business.

San Francisco has a “Past Master’s Association.”