

[Oct.,

1881.]

SUPREME COUNCIL.

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"Brother GEORGE STODART BLACKIE, 32° and 33° Elect, of Nashville, Tennessee, our Deputy for that State, departed this life on the morning of Sunday, the 19th day of June last, and we have no one to take his place.

"He was born in Scotland, and was there made a Mason, and invested by the Supreme Council of Scotland with the 30th Degree. The 31st and 32d he obtained from us in 1868 at Memphis, in Tennessee. Of gentle blood, he was also made in Scotland a member of the Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland, and a Templar; and in Tennessee he was distinguished by his reports to the Grand Lodge, on Foreign Correspondence, and in intelligent, untiring zeal."

I will now ask your attention to subjects of a less sombre nature.

AS REGARDS REPRESENTATIVES.—The lamented death of Ill. Brother Dr. MACKEY rendered it necessary to supply his loss by the appointment of another Brother, to act for us near the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America. I communicated with our Ill. Brother and friend, ALBERT PIKE, 33°, Grand Commander, who furnished three names, the choice of any one of which would be acceptable as successor to Ill. Brother MACKEY. I selected the first one, that of Illustrious Brother WILMOT GIBBS DE SAUSSURE, 33°, an active member of the Southern Supreme Council for South Carolina, and requested our Ill. Secretary-General to prepare and forward the necessary credentials, which he has done, and I trust that this will meet your approval.

He sent likewise the necessary credentials in favor of Ill. Brother Colonel SHADWELL H. CLERKE, 33°, successor to our late Brother Doctor ROBERT HAMILTON, 33°, as our Representative near the Supreme Council of England and Wales, as approved by you at our last Session.

With respect to Representatives near other Supreme Councils, with all of which Bodies our relations continue to be of a most fraternal nature, I will simply repeat what I said last year, viz.: That the full completion of our staff of Representatives is very desirable, and refer to that portion of my Address of 1880 (page 11) which suggested that the Committee on Foreign Relations should offer recommendations at this present Session, for filling every vacancy. Such recommendations will, of course, be at once adopted by the Council and myself.

All necessary information relating to the condition of our Rite in the Dominion will be found in the Reports of your respective Deputies, and there is no necessity for me to occupy your time by repeating it, and I shall content myself by saying that, as far as my immediate knowledge can testify, our general harmony has not been disturbed in any way.

I hope that the Council will hear more from our Brethren of the Maritime Provinces than has heretofore been the case. Their prosperity is our own. An increase of our Bodies in each is very desirable; and the same thing may be said as regards Quebec. I mean as to other localities, if possible, besides the chief cities.