

understood by understanding the nature of the Cuban Masonry, a study upon which it is not worth while at the present moment to enter. The best course is to do nothing, and until there is unity among the Cuban Masons this attitude should be preserved. We have relations with the old Council at the present moment, but as the seat of our representative is declared vacant, it should, if really vacant, remain so for the present. It may be well for the Committee to draw attention to the fact that Cuba is a dependency of Spain. We have recognized a Supreme Council for the dependency, but none for the mother country.

FRANCE.

The quarterly Bulletin of the Supreme Council for France is sent us regularly. Within the past two years there have been some very important changes in the Constitution of the Rite: in that country, changes which have been rendered necessary by the constant agitation of the lodges of the first three degrees to secure self-government. Just before the death of the late Bro. CREMIEUX, then Sovereign Grand Commander, a number of the Lodges of the Rite seceded from the Government of the Supreme Council and set up for themselves an independent authority called the Independent Grand Lodge (symbolic) of the Scottish Rite. It is one of the anomalies of French Masonry that this independent body was recognized as a lawful governing authority by the Grand Orient of France, without disturbing the harmony that exists between the Grand Orient and the Supreme Council of the A.° and A.° Rite. Although many Lodges remained faithful to the authority of the Supreme Council they did not cease to agitate for what they called reform. By the new constitution, ratified by the Supreme Council on 24th September of last year, it is declared that the Masonic system of the Scottish Rite consists of thirty-three degrees; that the degrees of the Rite are open to every Scottish Mason who has served the requisite time and acquired the necessary knowledge; that the bodies of the Rite from the first degree to the thirty-third degree are for the purpose of advancing Masons who have by their assiduity, their zeal and their Masonic labor, merited it; that the Lodges themselves shall propose to the Chapters those whom they deem worthy of advancement to the 18°; that the Chapters shall in their turn present to the "Third Section" in Paris, and to the Areopagus in the departments as in foreign countries the names of those who deserve admission to the thirtieth degree; for the 31°, 32° and 33° the "Third Section" in Paris and the Areopagus outside of Paris shall send lists of those whom they desire to receive these degrees. The Supreme Council is the chief and regulator of the Rite; it is complete with thirty-three members, and shall never be composed of less than twenty-seven. When a vacancy occurs in the Supreme Council the Grand Lodge central designates three members of the thirty-third degree, from among whom the Supreme Council is to make a selection; and all members of the Supreme Council are to be members of a Symbolic Lodge. Next to the Supreme Council is an Executive and Administrative Council of twenty-one members, of which the Grand Commander, or his Lieutenant, the