

seems disposed in some countries, of which Canada is one, to claim for itself the sole right and title to propagate the "High Grades," and to pocket the fees attendant upon such propagation. The most learned and distinguished member of this Rite, the Hon. Albert Pike, 33°, Chief of the Supreme Council of the United States—the Mother Supreme Council of the World—distinctly repudiates any such design on the part of himself or his Supreme Council, to practice this selfish and illiberal policy. In a letter to the chief officer of the Rite of Memphis in Italy, bearing date 18th February, 1877, Bro. Pike says: "We have never interfered to prevent the establishment within our jurisdiction of what is here called the Oriental Rite of Memphis, (which has been reduced by its possessors to Thirty-three Degrees) because we conceded to the fullest extent the right of all Masons to practice any Masonic Rite, ancient or modern, without hindrance from any one, and because we hold that each, our own included, ought to stand or fall, succeed or fail, upon its own merits."

Now, Bro. Pike is not only a distinguished Mason, but a distinguished jurist also, and as it is generally admitted, that to his very great genius and ability the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite owes almost entirely its present prominence amongst the Rites, it must therefore be evident to every impartial mind, that this opinion of Bro. Pike, so liberal and truly Masonic in its principles, expresses the law of his Rite, and that in effect, arrogance or intolerance are no real or fundamental part of its Constitution, and that these objectionable qualities are merely errors into which men of narrow minds and weak understandings—inflated by imaginary distinctions—have unwittingly fallen. It may now be affirmed as a settled truth, that the law of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite neither requires nor permits its members to interfere with other Rites, and those who have done so have displayed not only intolerance but *ignorance*.

I have been led into this disquisition upon High Grade Rites and their relations to each other, by a recent perusal of the proceedings of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Dominion of Canada, at the last session held in Montreal in October, 1878. In his address, the Presiding Officer, "The Most Illustrious and Most Puissant Sovereign Great Commander of The Holy Empire." (Great Cæsar, what a title! the Brother of the Sun! and Father of the Moon! and Lord of a Thousand White Elephants! of Oriental fame, must pale and fade away before the lustre of this Magnifico!) This stupendous Potentate, I say, took occasion to fall foul of some aspiring Brethren in the small and insignificant village of Mait-

land, Ontario, who not having the fear of the Supreme Council before their eyes, had the audacity and atrocity to obtain lawful authority to confer the Degrees of the Rites of Mizraim and Memphis, and the Ancient and Primitive Rite, and to publish to the Masonic world a very mild and modest Register of the various Rites and Degrees worked in that ambitious little village. For this act of so-called rebellion against the "very superior persons" (in a Disraeli sense) of the Supreme Council, these presumptuous villagers were hauled over the coals most unmercifully, were called "prostituters of Masonry," and defilers of the powers that be, "traffickers in Degrees," in short, a most unsavory stream of mock Masonic Billingsgate was poured upon their defenceless heads. Perjury was plainly intimated, and swindling, if not worse, hinted at. And why all this swelling indignation, this letting loose of a tornado of wrath? Merely because the Maitland Brethren had done that which Bro. Albert Pike, the very highest authority in this same Ancient and Accepted Rite, had publicly proclaimed every Brother had a perfect right to do without molestation from anyone.

But as if to show the inconsistency into which a rage for supremacy, combined with a greed for fees will hurry even "Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the Holy Empire," (I write this title with awe) it was deliberately resolved by the Supreme Council at this same session, that as the mountain would not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain; that as the general insensible public would not so far appreciate the beautiful and sublime degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite as to seek after them, that these Degrees must "go for" the public, and that consequently emissaries must be sent into the cities and towns of Canada to endeavor to stir up the enthusiasm of the Masonic fraternity, and induce them to receive the Degrees of Perfection—Fourth to the Fourteenth—at the rate of thirty dollars per head. The "denounced" of Maitland only published a Registrar of Degrees, and that without a scale of fees; the "Illustrious" ones of the Supreme Council not only advertise their price, but in addition send out "Drummers" to dispose of their wares. In this connection I feel irresistibly impelled to give a quotation from Pickwick. Mr. Alfred Jingle, having eloped with Miss Rachel Wardell, and being desirous of obtaining a marriage license, consulted Mr. Weller—the immortal Sam.

"Do you know what's-a-name—Doctor's Commons?" said Mr. Jingle.

"Yes, sir," replied Sam.

"Where is it?"

"Paul's Churchyard, sir, low archway on the carriage side, bookstallers sit on the cor-