

[Oct.,

1879.]

SUPREME COUNCIL.

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masons should not only believe in God, but in a state of future reward and punishment.

ST. DOMINGO.

We have a printed communication, dated 17th September, 1878, from a Supreme Council of this Republic (appendix M). As stated by your Committee last year, there is no reason why there should not be a recognized Supreme Council in St. Domingo. The only difficulty that stands in the way of the recognition of the Supreme Council now asking our recognition is that it occupies territory which originally belonged to the Supreme Council of Colon. As we are on friendly terms with Colon, we, perhaps, ought not to do anything without its consent. The Supreme Council of St. Domingo was formed in 1861 by five members of the 33°, and has ever since exercised authority over the Island, although after about the time of the formation, the Republic passed under the rule of Spain, whose laws forbade Masonic Associations, and for a time the work of the Supreme Council was suspended. It appears to be admitted by all authorities, whose opinion is of value, that if the Supreme Council of Colon would recognize this Supreme Council of the Dominican Republic, the matter would end.

Our Ill. Sov. Grand Commander has been nominated as the Representative near this Supreme Council of that of St. Domingo. The Committee recommend that the Supreme Council of Colon be notified of this, and if no objection is interposed within six months, reciprocal relations be entered into. We should hear what Colon has to say, if anything, why a Supreme Council existing in an independent country should not be recognized.

CONCLUSION.

In the matters which they have reviewed, the Committee have merely dealt, for the most part, with the relations existing between governing bodies. Their report does not, to any great extent, touch the work that is doing by the subordinates. They may say, however, that everywhere an active spirit prevails, that differences as to forms of Government or modes of proceeding do not check the ardent zeal of the members to spread the great principles of human brotherhood, which is the end and aim of this important Rite of Freemasonry.

JOHN V. ELLIS,
ISAAC H. STEARNS,
ROBT. T. CLINCH.

On motion of Ill. Bro. MURTON, seconded by Ill. Bro. MACKAY, the Report was received and laid upon the table for subsequent discussion.

The Secretary General and Treasurer General then read their Annual Reports, which were as follows:—