

including an arrangement as to the fees payable for admission to the degrees. A Committee of the Supreme Council, having examined into the whole subject, came to the conclusion that the authorities of the Royal Order had not adhered to the arrangement as far as fees payable by candidates were concerned, or fees payable to the Supreme Council itself, and concluded their report as follows:—"The Supreme Council of Scotland is the only Council in the world where such a restriction as to the admission of candidates to the Eighteenth Degree prevails; and now that it is drawing closer to the English and Irish Councils, it is an awkward feature that this marked peculiarity in its constitution should exist. As matters stand, it cannot even admit by affiliation a member of the Eighteenth Degree in either of these countries unless he happen to have taken the Royal Order; and now that the Royal Order has, for its own aggrandizement, broken the agreement, the Supreme Council should consider whether it will longer continue to enforce against itself an agreement which practically no longer exists." This report led to communications with the authorities of the Royal Order of Scotland, and subsequently the Committee of the Supreme Council made another report, an extract or two from which are of interest:

"In 1855 matters stood thus: The Supreme Council had no Rose Croix Chapters holding under it. When any one desired the Eighteenth Degree he applied to the Supreme Council itself, and that body conferred it, but without ceremony of any kind. The fee for the degree was paid directly to the Supreme Council, and it only amounted to twenty-one shillings for registration and diploma. In these circumstances it is not perhaps altogether surprising that an arrangement should have been made by which the Supreme Council only admitted to the 18th Degree candidates who had taken the Royal Order. It was a mere matter of arrangement as to what might be called the preliminary education of candidates for the 18th degree and nothing more. It was not intended to import, and as a matter of fact it did not import into the Royal Order any part of the authority or jurisdiction of the Supreme Council as the governing body in Scotland of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. It is quite certain that the Supreme Council had no power to do so had it even desired it, of which there is no evidence. It is necessary to keep this steadily in view for reasons which will appear in the sequel.

"Matters remained in this condition until the year 1865, when a material change took place. In that year a petition was presented to the Supreme Council by a number of members of the Royal Order who had received the 18th and 30th Degrees, asking the Supreme Council to grant them a Charter to work these Degrees. This the Supreme Council did, and from that time its connection with the working of the 18th Degree and the admission of candidates to it practically ceased. * * *

"The document to which reference has been made however, apart from all questions of good or bad taste, admits (1) That the Royal Order did not bind its Provincial Grand Lodges and Chapters in Scotland to observe the terms of agreement; and (2) That without the consent of the Supreme Council they have raised the fee of admission to that Order from £3 3s. to £5 5s. They have thus broken the agreement by which they bound themselves not to raise the fee above