

The Supreme Council is composed of thirty active members, of whom Ill. Bro. Lieut. General RENARD is Sovereign Grand Commander, and Ill. Bro. LEOPOLD RICHE, Secretary-General. The oldest member is Brother JAWKS BRIEKMAN, who was created a Thirty-third in 1833. At its sitting, 18th March, 1878, this Supreme Council celebrated the sixty-first anniversary of its foundation, when the Grand Orator delivered a very interesting historical sketch of the Council, arguing that its past history was an honorable one, and justified the inference that its future would be brilliant. This Supreme Council does a great deal of work. Its Sessions are held at Brussels. It meets several times a year as a Supreme Council to transact the administrative business of the Rite, and at other times to confer the high grades, which it appears to do from the 22° to the 32°. It occupies itself with public questions, such as education, the improvement of man, and it aids important undertakings. At its sitting, on the 3rd August, 1878, it voted two hundred and fifty francs to aid in the erection of a public monument in the village of Ath, to the memory of F. DEFACQZ, President of the Court of Cassation, and one of the founders of the Belgium nationality, who had also been a distinguished and active Brother. At the sitting of 12th October, the President, in the absence of the Grand Commander, announced that an event of considerable importance had transpired since the last Session. This event was the resignation of a Ministry whose tendency he alleged was ultramontane and inimical to the Masonic institution. The new Ministry, he added, contained among its number, no less than three members of the Supreme Council; the Sovereign Grand Commander, Bro. RENARD, was Minister of War; the Lieutenant Grand Commander, Bro. VON HUMBEECK, Minister of Public Instruction; and Bro. BARA, 32°, had been nominated Minister of Justice. It was an honor to which the Supreme Council could not be indifferent; and therefore at an informal Convocation of the Supreme Council on 30th August, a deputation had been named to express the fraternal sentiment of their peers in the Supreme Council to the new Ministers, and to congratulate them upon the marks of public confidence with which they had been invested. All of the members of the Supreme Council joined in the deputation. They had waited upon the new Ministers, presented them with an address, and the Sovereign Grand Commander on his own behalf and that of his two associates thanked them for the courtesy and for this mark of their fraternal affection, and, at the same time, assured them that even though public duties might interfere with his attendance at Supreme Council, his interest in the work of the Rite would not cease. In the bodies subject to the Supreme Council, there is a very active spirit; philosophical, educational, and other matters are discussed. In one Chapter an essay was read by a Brother on the employment of women in the mines. Other bodies had interested themselves in the work of succouring the unhappy people in the countries affected by the Eastern war. Subscriptions were taken up, concerts organized, and committees formed to send money, medicine, and clothes to the unhappy sufferers. There is an active philosophic and practical Masonic spirit at work in Belgium. The "transactions" contain a good review of Foreign Freemasonry, including the proceedings of our Supreme Council for 1877, which are courteously noticed.