

who ever interested himself in the slightest degree in the affairs of the Craft. His intentions were doubtless good—according to his lights—his speeches often had a true Masonic ring, but he was apparently much misled by worthless and ambitious members of his council, and wholly unable to appreciate the beauties of self-government, or to divest himself of the effects of his barrack training. In his eyes the Craft was a regiment and himself the colonel, and there—so far as he was concerned—was an end of the matter. Discussion meant mutiny, and was therefore to be kept under with a firm hand.

1855.—February 26.—The G.M. invited all the world to a Masonic congress at Paris, to be held June 1. Desanlis resigned the position of Dep. G.M., March 30, and on June 4 was made an Hon. Grand Officer, and Razy appointed Dep. G.M. *ad interim*.

June 7.—The Grand Masonic Congress assembled under the presidency of Heuillant, Dep. G.M., and was officially opened on the 8th by Murat in person. The Grand Orient was represented by 22 members and officers. Five foreign Grand Bodies had accepted the invitation, but did not put in an appearance, viz., the Grand Lodges of Switzerland, Hamburg, Louisiana, Saxony, and the Supreme Council of Luxemburg. Three—the Grand Lodges of Hayti, New York, and Sweden—had appointed deputies, but they were unable to arrive in time. Four Grand Lodges and 1 Provincial Grand Lodge were really represented, viz., Columbia, Ireland, Virginia, Holland, and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster. Inasmuch as there are some 90 Grand Lodges in the world, besides any number of Provincial Grand Lodges, the outlook was not encouraging. Only 5 proposals were agreed to; these were of the most unimportant description, and not one of them has been carried into effect.

1857.—June 6.—By a decree of Murat, Doumet was appointed Dep. G.M., *vice* Desanlis resigned; and Razy, who had acted *ad interim*, was made an Hon. Grand Officer. A decree of September 30 placed Rexès at the head of the correspondence of the Grand Orient, and entrusted him with other important charges. In fact, the Dep. G.M. became such an unimportant personage, that Heuillant resigned. From that time the Grand Orient was practically under a triumvirate—Murat, Doumet, and Rexès. This paved the way for a very disgraceful transaction. On June 2, 1860, Murat accepted the resignation of Rexès, but asked him to continue his duties *ad interim*. On the 11th Rexès presided over the Grand Master's council, and delivered a message to the effect that the finances of the G.O. being now capable of supporting the charges upon them, the G.M. was unwilling to ask any longer for the services of such an important officer as Rexès' successor would be, without offering an equivalent. The council was therefore requested to name the sum it could set apart for the purpose, and on the 18th offered a maximum of 9000 francs per annum. As a matter of fact, the finances of the Grand Orient showed a large and increasing annual deficit, but the council was chiefly composed of brethren, who are best described as the creatures of the Grand Master. Moreover, as Rexès' successor could only be appointed from among themselves, each member felt that he had at least a chance of being appointed to an office worth some £350 a year. Their consternation, however, may be imagined, when a decree appeared—June 21—stating that on and after July 1 the office formerly occupied by Rexès would be endowed with a salary of 9000 francs,—which was followed by another of July 17, appointing Rexès himself to this office, and instructing him to assume thenceforth the title of Representative of the G.M.

We now approach the most scandalous series of scenes in French Freemasonry, scenes only to be equalled by similar ones in the Legislative Chambers of the same nation, of