

The same causes will produce the like results everywhere. The BB.: who compose the Symbolic Lodges know that in England, Scotland, Ireland, the United States, Germany, Sweden and Denmark, such Lodges are governed by Grand Lodges composed of their delegates. They become restive and discontented under a different form of government, denounce it as an aristocracy and oligarchy, a self-constituted despotism, and at length break out into open revolt. I think that this is absolutely unavoidable. Sooner or later, Masons become discontented with an absolute, self-perpetuating Power, composed of but few persons, and these not bound to render to any one account of their action. A sufficiently long experience proves this.

Also it proves that, when such revolt has occurred, the resort to measures of force does not suppress the revolt, remedy the mischief, or restore harmony. Power must always, at last, yield to opinion.

We have, therefore, in like cases, heretofore advised Supreme Councils in alliance with us to frankly offer the option, to all Symbolic Lodges of their obedience, of continuing so, or of withdrawing from that obedience and creating an independent Symbolic Grand Lodge for the State, Kingdom, Empire or Republic, between which and the Supreme Council relations of amity should exist, each recognizing the Lodges under the other as legitimate, and the members of all entitled to mutual right of visiting.

This is, virtually, what has been done with the happiest results in Hungary, Belgium and Switzerland. In England, Scotland, Ireland, the United States and Canada, the Supreme Councils do not govern Symbolic Lodges, and consequently no dissensions exist. In countries where the Sup.: Councils have created and governed such Lodges, there will no longer be cause for dissension, if the Lodges are invested with the right to adhere to the Sup.: Councils, or create Grand Lodges, at their option.

Men are to be governed by wise use of the motives that influence them. Men of intellect and force are more actuated by the desire for dignities and offices, rank, and the possession of power, than by any love of independence for others as well as themselves. If a barrier is raised between them and the highest places, they will never rest until they break it down. When an Order becomes great and its members numerous, there will be many agitators and declaimers against self-constituted Power, as contrary to the genius of Masonry; and these soon concentrate an opinion which no such Power can long resist.

Therefore, *we* would not, if we could, create and govern Symbolic Lodges. We know that each would soon become a centre of discontent; and that the end would be our own surrender of sovereignty, and their independence.

You have asked my advice, and I give it frankly, hoping that if your Supreme Council follows it, it will find an ample field for its labors in the Degrees above the third, and in governing such Lodges as shall elect to adhere to it.

1879.]

Extracts from
Supreme Council
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