

[Oct.,

1881.]

SUPREME COUNCIL.

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existence now your Committee do not know. Whether Tunis is a dependency of Turkey appears to be in doubt. It pays a fealty of some kind to the Sultan of Turkey, as his head is on the coinage; but, as it appears to be able to keep up a war on its own account, it would probably not be the kind of "dependency" contemplated by the above quoted section. It is, perhaps, as much of an independent country as Egypt, whose Supreme Council we have recognized. Both countries are probably "independent" because of the weakness of the central authority. However, taking into account the apparent regularity of the preliminary steps, the evident desire of the members of this new Supreme Council to place their superstructure on a firm foundation, and their recognition by the Supreme Council for Italy and that for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, your Committee pass over all obtruding doubts and recommend the Supreme Council to follow its own precedent, as in the case of Egypt, and to recognize the Supreme Council of Tunis, of which Ill. Bro. N. S. CASSANELLO is Sovereign Grand Commander, as a lawful power of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

COLON.

Your Committee referred last year to the suspension of several members of the Supreme Council for Colon. Practically that Body has been rent in twain. Seven members of the old Council have seceded and have set up a new Council at Havanna, leaving only the late Sovereign Grand Commander and the Secretary-General to continue the Supreme Council at St. Jago. Long and bitter letters have passed between the parties, and their denunciations of each other has been severe. The trouble appears to be largely political. The Sovereign Grand Commander of the old Council seems to have been too friendly to the Cuban national party to please his colleagues, and they charge him with having carried his feelings and acts so far that he drew down upon the Supreme Council the severe denunciations of some prominent members of the Spanish Parliament. Indeed they declare that his association "with ringleaders of the Insurrection," with "deluded and criminal men" who have "destroyed the happiness and wealth of the Island by a fratricidal war * * * had already caused our august body to be considered as a separatistic political club, and had caused the imprisonment of several Masons, and the seizure of the archives of the Sovereign Grand Chapter of Rose Croix." There are other charges against the Sovereign Grand Commander both of a political and a personal kind, arising out of the condition of affairs in Cuba, which the members of the recently formed Council declare justify the radical measure that has been taken by them, after, as they allege, the failure of their efforts to secure from their Sovereign Grand Commander a pledge that he would pursue a wiser course, that he "would restore to our Valleys and Encampments the desired peace, tranquility and union." The question then that the Supreme Council might have to decide is whether it will recognize the new authority or continue its correspondence with the old; but at the present moment it is not worth our while to enter into a dispute, the real merits of which could only be