

LOUISIANA, 1873.

Since completing our Report, the proceedings of this Grand Lodge have come to hand, and as they contain matters of interest we review them.

The Grand Lodge held its Annual Communication 10th Feby., 1873. M. W. Samuel M. Todd, Grand Master. R. W. James C. Batchelor, Grand Secretary. 117 Lodges represented.

In the Grand Master's Address, under the head of the "Grand Orient of France," we find the following :

"At the annual communication of the Grand Orient held in September last, a report was presented by a special committee embodying resolutions upon the difficulties existing between it and the Grand Lodges of America, which were unanimously adopted. This proceeding affords ample evidence that the storm of reprobation and disapproval which has met its unmasonic acts, has not been without its due effect. The report of the committee, although containing some errors of fact and evincing a disposition to shield the Grand Master from blame, is conciliatory in its tone, and expresses a desire to bring back the restoration of union and fraternal relations between the Masons of France and those of the United States. I submit a translation of this report; the conclusions arrived at by the committee being summed up in the following resolution :

'The Grand Orient desires to respect the rights of every country and of each Rite, as she desires that her own should be respected, and if Scottish Masonry, represented by all the Supreme Councils of the globe, declare the irregularity of the Supreme Council of Louisiana, the Grand Orient, itself Supreme Council for France and the French possessions, will conform to the decision of the majority of the powers of the Scottish Rite.'

"This action although not satisfactory as an *amende* to our Grand Lodge for the wrong done, is yet an evidence that the Grand Orient is desirous of retracing its steps; let us hope that it will soon abandon its alliance with spurious and clandestine Masonry, reconsider its action changing its form of government, and by conforming with the fundamental and recognized laws and usages of our institution, retake its proper position among the Masonic powers of the globe."

Several decisions are given. We quote with concurrence the following, as covering the whole ground :

"Three Master Masons, members of a lodge, can legally transact any business at a stated meeting, with the exception of balloting for candidates, there being one of the three principal officers of the lodge present, and presiding.

"I advised, however, that although a meeting composed of only three members was a legal one under the regulations of our Grand Lodge, yet, that it would be highly improper, at such a meeting, to transact business of great importance affecting the interests of the lodge, if a larger number could be obtained. Perhaps it would be better that the

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