

submitted, the first being the modifications of the Constitutions. The G.M. allowed it to become known, through Desanlis, that the Government had resolved not to permit in future a deliberative and legislative assembly. It required that all power should be in the hands of the Grand Master, who would be assisted by a council—that this was the only way to offer the Government a valid guarantee, etc. The Commission of Revision was chosen from those members most likely to be amenable to such thinly veiled hints—and proceeded to work. On October 26 it brought up its report, which was so badly received, and gave rise to such tumult, that the sitting was prematurely closed. As the whole spirit of the new ordinances may be gathered from one single article, I here reproduce it side by side with the corresponding paragraph of 1849.

1849.

Art. 32. The Grand Orient, the legislator and regulator of the Order, is possessed of all its power. It exercises directly the legislative power, delegates the executive to the G.M., assisted by a council, and confides the administrative to Boards (*Chambres*) formed of its own members.

1854.

Art. 31.—The G.M. is the Supreme Chief of the Order, its representative near foreign Masonic jurisdictions, and its official organ with the Government; he is the executive, administrative, and directing power.

In fact Murat had determined to rule the Grand Orient and the Craft after the manner of a general in the field, who directs everything, although he may, and for his own convenience occasionally does, ask the advice of his staff—the members of which, however, would hold their offices by a very frail tenure were they in the habit of often disagreeing with their chief. In spite of protests and struggles, the Convent was obliged to ratify these Constitutions on October 28. Next day the members of the Council were appointed, and on the 30th the G.M. by a decree appointed Desanlis and Heuillant Deputy Grand Masters. The most noticeable name on the Council is that of Rexès, of whom we shall soon hear more than enough. In order to convey some faint impression of the pitiable state of subserviency into which the Craft was reduced during this period of its history, a few of Murat's many arbitrary acts will now be cited.

On May 13, 1856, a member of the Grand Orient demanded that certain decrees of the G.M. should be submitted to the assembly. He was informed that such decrees could not be discussed, and continuing to urge the point, was ordered to resume his seat. Blanche, a member of the G.M.'s council, on one occasion indignantly exclaimed, "But what are we then?" "Nothing without me," said Murat, "and I—I am everything, even without you." Blanche resigned his seat. In 1861, Murat suspended, in one month, more than 40 Presidents and Deputies of Lodges for opposing the arbitrary government of the Grand Orient. Previously—April 16, 1858—he had distributed, of his own will, the 40 Paris Lodges amongst the 13 chapters of the city, and on November 30, of the same year, he decreed that no Masonic writings should be published, except by the printers to the Grand Orient. A Lyons Lodge was suspended—March 31, 1859—for having "permitted itself to discuss a decree of the G.M.," and a similar fate befell a Paris Lodge on May 9, ensuing. In 1858, the G.M. warned the assembly general "to deliberate only on such subjects as are placed before it by his council, and on no account to wander, *accidentally or otherwise*, from the *ordre du jour*." These are only a few incidents taken at haphazard, and yet, something, after all, may be urged in Murat's favor. He was the first French Grand Master