

[Oct.,

1879.]

SUPREME COUNCIL.

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Council of which Bro.: GRAVINA is Sov.: Grand Commander, protesting against the act of the Supreme Council for Switzerland, which, as the Executive Power of the Lausanne Convention, seeks to unite the opposing elements in Spain, and asks the Bro.: GRAVINA'S Council to unite with Masons whom he denounces as irregular and schismatic.

ITALY.

From Italy we have received a great many communications, written and printed, including a letter from our representative, Bro.: RIBOTI, to the Sovereign Grand Commander. They all deal with the difficulties which have arisen out of the conflict of authority between the Supreme Council at Turin and the Body claiming to be a supreme authority at Rome. In addition to this, the Council at Turin appears to be pressed by the Supreme Council for Switzerland, as the executive power of the Lausanne Convention, to consent to a removal of the Masonic government of the Italian kingdom to Rome. We have recognized, and are in friendly relations with the Supreme Council sitting at Turin. So far as the Supreme Council of Canada is concerned, it knows no other authority over the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in Italy.

FRANCE.

Although on terms of amity with the Supreme Council for France, we have had very little correspondence with it. That Supreme Council has not yet appointed a representative near us, an omission which is probably due to oversight, as we have a representative at that Supreme Council, and the name of an Illustrious Brother was transmitted for appointment. A courteous letter has been received from the Secretary of the Supreme Council (appendix J), suggesting us an exchange of annual publications, and transmitting at the same time copies of the official account of the Festival given under the auspices of the Supreme Council, on 24th October, 1878, to all regular Masons who had been drawn to Paris by the Exposition. It was a musical and literary entertainment, at which 6,000 persons were present, and was followed by a banquet presided over by JULES SIMON. Speeches were made by Ill.: Bro.: CREMIEUX, Sov.: Grand Commander of the French Council; by Ill.: Bro.: ARAGO, Grand Orator, and the representative of this Supreme Council, near that of France, by LORD SKELMERSDALE, the Sov.: Gd.: Commander of the English Council, and by other prominent Masons representing the Supreme Councils of Belgium, Switzerland, and other countries. The music was of the finest character, by artists of world-wide reputation, and the speeches were replete with Masonic sentiment, urging the union and brotherhood of men of all races and conditions.

The Supreme Council has under its authority a great many Symbolic Lodges which are represented and governed by what is called the Grand Lodge Central of France, and which is really a section of the Supreme Council. A serious agitation has lately sprung up among the Lodges for a re-distribution of power, and a re-organization of the governing system, the Lodges claiming that they are overshadowed by the members of the high Degrees in the government and control of their own affairs. Although the Lodge which participated most