

[Oct.,

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SUPREME COUNCIL.

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to the convocation of the Rose Croix Degree in June last, and I stated my individual opinion, in which I am glad to find many others concur, that it would be possible to make our system accord with that of every other country where the A.° and A.° Rite is practised, by making the Council of Thirty-third the supreme power of the Rose Croix Degree, yet retaining the Grand Chapter as an administrative body; preserving all its really important functions, as well as the dignity of its officers, and leaving it, of course, the full control over its own funds. But nothing has been done in that direction, and the Rose Croix Degree, to its own disadvantage, as well as that of the Supreme Council, still retains its anomalistic and unrecognized position. I expressed to the Convocation my opinion that the subject would soon be forced on the attention of the Rose Croix Degree; and I find that since I presented that Report the subject was alluded to in an address delivered on 17th September last, by the M.° P.° Grand Commander of the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States to his assembled Council. He expressed his opinion that there is now some danger that the organization of the Rite in Ireland will become such that Masons of that obedience cannot be recognized in other countries—an opinion for which, so far as the Rose Croix Degree is concerned, I fear there is some foundation. He adds—"It is certainly very desirable that our Irish Brethren should make their system conform to that in other jurisdictions." Those few words are of much weight, coming as they do from one so cautious, wise and deliberate; who is as careful in forming his opinions as he is eloquent in expressing, and firm in defending them."

The domestic relations of the Supreme Council are in good condition, and its foreign relations pleasant and harmonious. Referring to the Supreme Council for Canada, our Illustrious Brother says:—

"We had the pleasure of admitting during the past year, COL. W. J. BURY MACLEOD MOORE, a member of the Supreme Council of Canada as an Honorary member of this Council, as a token on our part that we had not forgotten the connection of that estimable gentleman with Ireland and Irish Masonry, and were anxious to maintain our relations with Canada, which have always been most cordial, and I trust will continue to be so."

It may be of interest to append another paragraph from Bro.° TOWNSHEND'S address to show how rigidly the Supreme Council for Switzerland regards the matter of communication and exchange of representatives with those Supreme Councils not in the Lausanne Convention:—

"The Supreme Council for Switzerland, with which we had formerly been on friendly terms, did me the honor some years since of naming me as its representative with you. The Letters of Credence were handed to me by our late Secretary-General. After his death I found among his official papers a letter in the French language, relative to that appointment, to which as it seemed to me no answer had been given. I therefore wrote to the M.° P.° Br.° Besangon, whom I believed to be the Commander of the S.° C.° for Switzerland, stating the long illness and death of the late Secretary-General; our own desire to revive our amicable correspondence, and excusing, as well as I could, the omission to