

president of the new constituent assembly. The powers of the deputies were examined, five officers elected to administer the Craft *ad interim*, etc., etc. From then to August 10, 1849, 26 meetings were held, and on the latter date the new Constitutions were confirmed by the Grand Orient, thus newly erected. In spite of the liberal promises of the circulars of 1848, the organization was scarcely more democratic than previously, but one fact deserves mention; for the first time in French Freemasonry this code unequivocally declares (Art. 1), that the *basis* of Freemasonry is a belief in a God and the immortality of the soul.

**1850.**—December 13.—Appointment of Berville as Senior Deputy Grand Master, and of Desanlis as president of Grand Orient and Representative of the Grand Master. They were installed on the 27th following.

**1851.**—June 12.—The following words sum up the report made to Grand Orient on this date: "Confusion in the archives, confusion in the property, confusion in the finances, this is what our researches have disclosed, this is what we are forced to report to you." On December 10, following, in view of political disturbances which were then anticipated, the Grand Orient ordered all Masonic meetings to cease. In the same month Louis Napoleon was elected President of the Republic for ten years, and—January 1, 1852—the Grand Orient withdrew its prohibition.<sup>1</sup>

The existence of Freemasonry appearing very precarious, Prince Lucien Murat was asked whether he would accept the Grand Mastership, and having obtained the permission of his cousin signified his assent. Whereupon, he was unanimously elected—January 9, 1852, received the 33° on the 27th—and was installed February 26. On the same date Bugnot was invested as President of the Grand Orient, *vice* Desanlis, who had resigned that office July 11, 1851.

The first act of the new Grand Master was to adopt measures for the erection of a Masonic Hall in the Rue Cadet. He succeeded, thanks to a large loan (125,000 francs) from his son, but the expenses were for years a heavy burden on the resources of the Craft. A house was purchased, and sufficiently altered, in part, to be opened formally on June 30 of the same year.

**1853.**—March 11.—Desanlis was installed as second Deputy Grand Master, and on April 12 three members were nominated for the Presidency of the G.O., from whom the G.M. selected Janin, who was installed on the 29th. It was on this occasion that Murat gave the first indication of the despotic manner in which he intended to rule. On the occasion in question, the G. Sec., Hubert, had voted against the candidate most acceptable to the Prince—which, although a salaried officer, he was quite entitled to do—but he was immediately relieved of his duties by the Grand Master, in spite of the fact that during his short tenure of office he had contrived to increase the correspondence tenfold, to restore order in the *bureau*, and to convert the financial deficit of the Grand Lodge into a balance on the other side.

**1854.**—December 15.—The Grand Master convoked a "Constituent Convent" for October 15 to "take measures for Masonic unity, and to assure to the directing power the means of action which are indispensable," etc. On the 16th the Convent met and verified the mandates of the deputies, and the following day the questions to be discussed were

<sup>1</sup> From this date, Jouast and Kloss being no longer available, the subsequent facts are given on the authority of Rebold (a contemporary), and will be found, under the dates cited, in his "*Histoire des trois Grandes Loges*," *tit.* Histoire du Grand Orient.