

THE COUNCIL DEGREES.

We have ever been of the opinion that the Council Degrees should be requisite for promotion to the Orders of Knighthood. If we were a member of the Grand Commandery, we should use our unremitting efforts to require the possession of those degrees to qualify a candidate for the Orders of Knighthood. They are really a part of ancient craft Masonry necessary to a full understanding of their import, and no Royal Arch Mason is perfect in his knowledge of the Sublime Art without the degrees of Royal and Select Master—and Super-Excellent Master also, which is conferred in all the Eastern States. We hope our present Grand Master will see to its proper promulgation before his term of office shall expire, and thus add luster to his fame as a workman that needed not to be ashamed.—*The Trestle Board.*

EDITORIAL ITEMS.

THE Grand Lodge of Scotland recently issued a charter for a lodge in the town of Alexandria, in Egypt, and within the jurisdiction of the G. L. of Egypt. The Egyptians made short work of the invaders. The representative of the G. L. of Scotland at "Egypt" was peremptorily ordered to "pass in" his commission. Eventually, Scotland withdrew the charter and apologised.—*The Freemason*, Sydney, Aus., August. This information has hitherto been withheld by British Masonic journals! THE CRAFTSMAN, however, brought this "invasion" to light in May last!

LORD PETRIE, a Roman Catholic Peer, was G. M. of England from 1772 to 1777, and won the esteem and goodwill of all parties. Times have changed, but Freemasonry has not.

ORIENTAL COMMANDERY, Knights Templar, of Cleveland, Ohio, Em. Sir G. H. Robinson Commander, has sent to Em. Sir Charles E. Pierce, Commander of Saint Omer Commandery of South Boston, a handsome and artistically engrossed certificate of the Honorary Membership which Oriental Commandery conferred upon him in April last. The engrossing is done in colors and with a pen, by Sir C. E. Wilber of Oriental Commandery. The skillful manner in which it is executed denotes a master hand. The certificate came protected in a rich and tasty frame of olive green plush and gold, the whole making an attractive wall ornament.

MASONRY IN MAINE.—The last three decades have made a wondrous change in the status of the Order, as witness the following from the report of the Grand Secretary, Bro. Ira Berry:—

It is now thirty years since I was elected to the position of Secretary. The number of Lodges was then eighty-one—three of which, if I rightly remember, were then dormant, but have since been revived. The number of members returned that year was 3,211. This year we have a hundred and eighty-five Lodges working under charter, with a membership of over twenty thousand.

ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND.—The *Boston Journal* reports that the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland opened its annual meeting in Freemason's Hall, Monday evening, September 19th. Sir Josiah H. Drummond, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, presiding, in the absence of Sir Albert Pike, Provincial Grand Master. After the transaction of the regular business, including the initiation of nine candidates, and the reading of Grand Master Pike's allocution, the lodge was called off until the following day, when its business would be concluded.