

[Oct.,

1879.]

SUPREME COUNCIL.

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The Committee recommend that so much of the address as relates to Foreign Supreme Councils, be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations ; that the portion relating to changes in the titles of officers be referred to the Committee on Ritual, to report at the next Annual Session, or as soon as convenient ; and that the Confession of Faith submitted by the Sovereign Grand Commander be referred to the same Committee.

The Supreme Council will share in the regret of the Committee, that the Sovereign Grand Commander was unable to avail himself of the courteous invitation to attend the Session of the Supreme Council for the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States, lately held at Philadelphia. The fraternal relations, the kind feelings which exist between the two Supreme Councils would be strengthened by such a visit, and from our Illustrious Brethren of the Rite in the United States, the Sovereign Grand Commander would receive a hearty and generous welcome.

We are under never-ending obligation to Illustrious Brother ALBERT PIKE, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, and each Session we learn of something that adds to the weight of unrequited service he has rendered us. A magnificent array of books, the result of his years of profound study and the product of his brilliant genius, already enriches the archives of the Supreme Council, and to this at the present Session other additions are made. We know no means by which we can repay our Illustrious Brother, but we lay at his feet our tribute of respect for his learning, and of our love and gratitude for the kindness he is continually showing us. To him special thanks are due this year for his letter in answer to certain Masons in Ontario, questioning the authority of this Supreme Council, submitted by the Sovereign Grand Commander with his address, which your Committee recommend to be printed with the proceedings, as an evidence of the courteous and effective manner in which our Illustrious Brother deals with those who questioned the regularity of one of his most important acts in connection with the Rite, viz :—The inauguration of this Supreme Council.

The Supreme Council having in previous years discussed fully the question of uniting in the Lausanne Convention and in the Concilier League, and having reached the conclusion that it would be wise to remain untrammelled by any alliance except that which is based on a good understanding, the outcome of fraternal correspondence, your Committee do not deem it advisable to make any further recommendation to the Supreme Council upon this subject. With regard to that portion of the articles of the League to which the Sovereign Grand Commander calls special attention, viz :—"That no person can ever be recognized as lawfully invested with any degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, by having received a degree claiming to be such, as part of any other Rite," the Committee need only remark that this is so well understood in this Jurisdiction that it does not seem possible for any one to be recognized of any degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, unless he shall have legally and lawfully received that degree in the Rite. In the judgment of the Committee, therefore, no amendment of the statutes is necessary to meet what may be considered an impossible case, and the Committee so advise the Supreme Council.