

and containing extracts from a letter from you to him. In these extracts you instruct the M.: W.: S.: of your Chapter "that no Masonic communication can be held with any Member of the A.: & A.: Rite who belongs to "a Chapter hailing from a S.: Council 33°., and working in any of our "Colonies where this S.: Council has *already* established its jurisdiction," and that "consequently no Member of your Chapter can visit such *intruding* body, nor join it, neither can you receive their Members in your Chapter "as Visitors."

I need not discuss with you the claims your Council puts forward to exclusive jurisdiction in any Colony of Great Britain in which it has happened to establish a Lodge or Chapter. The general question has been so ably stated by Ill.: Bro.: ALBERT PIKE, in a letter to the Supreme Council of France, a copy of which was no doubt sent to you, that I need do little more than adopt his arguments.

The British Colonies are as much Scotch and Irish Territory as they are English, and either Council is quite entitled to establish Chapters or Lodges in them for its own countrymen. This is the rule in St. John's, Royal Arch, and Templar Masonry, and it does not work badly. It is difficult, therefore, to conceive any proper motive for seeking to introduce any different rule into the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. Scotch and Irish Masons are as much entitled to the higher degrees as are the English Masons; and they are also entitled, if they prefer it, to seek these degrees from bodies holding under the Supreme Councils of their native lands. This appears to me so reasonable, that I am surprised any difference of opinion should exist between us on the subject.

The Supreme Council of Scotland does not seek for purposes of gain to establish Chapters and Lodges in the Colonies; all that it desires is, to provide for Scotchmen the same privileges which your Council very properly offers to Englishmen.

It is much to be regretted that the two Councils should not be at one on this question, and that such Circulars as the one to which I have referred should be issued, bearing to be with the sanction of your Council. It will be a most unseemly thing should this Council be compelled to prohibit intercourse between our Chapters and Lodges abroad and those holding of England; but if Circulars of the nature of the one I am now complaining of are to be issued with your sanction, it will be necessary for this Council not only to do so, but to communicate the action they have been driven into taking to the sister Councils with whom we have entered into treaties of amity and correspondence.

I trust your Council will give this matter careful consideration, and I shall be glad to be favored with a reply at your earliest convenience. I need scarcely say that I sincerely hope I shall be enabled to report to the Supreme Council of Scotland, that matters are so arranged that it is unnecessary to adopt the

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