

[Oct.,

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SUPREME COUNCIL.

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able contest against Freemasonry: against the liberties conferred by the people after ages of sufferings of all kinds, and at the price of bloody sacrifices!

Might not this be a serious indication that the Devil seeks to insinuate himself into our ranks?

We, the Executive Authority of Confederation, guardian of the Supreme Authority, with which we have been invested by a special favor from our dear and Illustrious allies until the next convent, here declare, that we cannot permit disuniting criticisms on the legitimate influence of Congresses for the progress of Scottish Masonry to circulate without our energetic protest.

Of all the members of the Alliance up to the present, Peru only has uttered a discordant note from beyond the sea, at the beginning of an undertaking to which time only can give consecration by demonstrating its happy fruitfulness and assuring its development for the great benefit of Scottish Masonry in both worlds.

Alone, we say, the Supreme Council of Peru appears to give up the collective mission we have given ourselves, before a serious and sufficient experience can have proved whether Convents are an innovation, useless and injurious to the Order.

Whence then can it derive its motives for discouragement? when it was the object of a flattering and coveted distinction at the Convent of Lausanne, by its admission to a seat at the Federal Tribunal.

We cannot have the fears formulated at Lima, and we hope they will find little echo in Europe, if it is not there where that hidden influence, denounced above, might have penetrated.

We must hope that this trifling cloud, formed over there in the extreme west, will be dispersed and will not carry the storm with it into the midst of the next Conference which sits at London or Rome; we have firm belief of it.

If the Convent at Lausanne has at first joined together only nine Supreme Councils, whose fault is it? but the proof of the vitality and the future that is assured to it, is, that since the proclamation of the resolutions of that first Convent, eight other Supreme Scottish Authorities have spontaneously adhered, and requested entrance to the Confederation.

Let us add that quite recently a similar adhesion has come from Madrid, on the part of the two Bodies which dispute supremacy.

The Ill.<sup>rs</sup> Brethren of Peru will be willing to confess that this is an assuredly delightful success at the end of less than three years—17 out of 22. They are then unhappy in preaching abstention, especially after the glorious defeat of the attempt at plot of the few separatists at Edinburgh.

The Alliance was freely and enthusiastically concluded, and the subsequent adhesions, upon which the next Convent will decide, were spontaneous; but if they repent of this generous impulse to Confederation, they should come to the