

wise their Grand Lodge to determine that a Lodge be formed in Great Britain of equal rank and of equal powers with the M. W. G. Lodge of Canada, to be called the M. W. G. Lodge of Great Britain and Ireland; and while the M. W. G. Lodge of Canada is to use their present Constitution, that of Great Britain will also use the present Constitution of the Free Templars, only making such changes as are rendered necessary by their adopting the names of the different grades of Lodges, Officers, &c., which at present hold among us, and by any other of the terms of the basis. It is advised, also, that a new grade of Lodges, or a General Council, be instituted, to consist of representatives or delegates sent from the various M. W. G. Lodges and to meet at stated intervals of time. The functions of this Council will be entirely legislative, no appeals being carried beyond the M. W. G. Lodges, except those on Constitutional questions. The Constitution, as before stated, is to be of a general character, and its amendment will be entirely in the hands of the Council. It will, however, be quite competent for a M. W. G. Lodge to pass any Bye-law which violates no article in the Constitution; but such Bye-law shall, of course, be binding only on the constituents of the Lodge which passes it. As the general Constitution will necessarily consist only of articles to which both of the negotiating Orders agree, it, with the Bye-laws which each M. W. G. Lodge will make, will be tantamount to the Constitutions which they now respectively possess. By this plan that objection is met which was urged against the former basis of negotiations, namely, that the granting of special powers and special privileges to a Grand Lodge, was the establishment of an Order within an Order, and was likely to produce dissention and feud. According to the present proposal there will be certain principles to which it will be necessary for all to adhere; but outside this central ground there will be a wide field on which diversity of opinion and diversity of action will be allowed. The Constitution, which is to bind the whole Order, will be drawn up by a committee, of whose members equal numbers will be appointed by each of the negotiating Orders; and until it is completed both Lodges are to act according to the provisions of the present Constitutions, the M. W. G. Lodge of Great Britain, however, making those changes in the present Constitution of the Free Templars already referred to.

Until the General Council holds its first session the M. W. G. Lodge of Canada is to determine passwords, and to exercise the functions which will afterwards necessarily fall to the General Council to perform.

There are other minor points, but they are mere details, and the statements which I have made will enable you to understand the general principles of the basis which the Union Committee are to submit for consideration, and probably for approval, to the Free Templars.

I have expressed to the Committee my firm belief that my opinions, as given above, are those, also, of our M. W. G. Lodge. It remains with the M. W. G. Lodge to substantiate that statement, and if, at its next session, it pass a resolution stating its adhesion to the above, as the principles of a basis on which it is prepared to unite with the Free Templars, and empowering the Executive to settle finally the details, I have little doubt that before its succeeding meeting is held, the two Orders shall have become one; and one of the breaches in the ranks of the Temperance army shall have been healed.

I am, my dear brother,
Yours very faithfully,

J. GORDON MacGREGOR,
Dep. M. W. C. T.

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