

could himself occasionally play the tyrant, as his action respecting the A. and A.S.R. 33° will show. Soon after his nomination he met Viennet, the Sov. G. Com. of the Supreme Council, whom he informed that he read the Emperor's decree as appointing him to be Grand Master of all French Freemasons, and concluded, "prepare to receive me as your Grand Master also, I will no longer suffer *petites églises*." Viennet smiled and retired. On February 1, he wrote kindly to Viennet, announcing his formal intention of reuniting dissenting Lodges to the Grand Orient. Viennet replied on the 3rd, pointing out that the Constitution of the Supreme Council rendered this absolutely impossible, and that as long as a single 33° man remained, he would become the head of the Rite, etc. On April 30 Magnan addressed a circular to all the Scots Lodges: "For many years a deplorable schism has desolated French Masonry, . . . a Sovereign Will desires to-day its unity. . . . and has confided to me the universal direction of all French Rites. . . . I trust you will not force me to use measures repugnant to my fraternal feelings. . . . Presidents of Lodges under the ex-Supreme Council, do not misunderstand the position. it is from me, from the Grand Orient, that you now hold. . . . On June 9 I trust to be surrounded by the deputies of all lodges. Signed, Magnan." No satisfactory answers arriving, on May 22 he issued a decree abolishing the Supreme Council. "Whereas . . . by this decree the Emperor recognizes only one Masonic authority, that of the Grand Orient. . . . Art. 1. The Masonic powers known as Supreme Council, Misraim, etc., are dissolved, etc., etc." Viennet replied on May 25: "*M. le Maréchal*, for the third time you summon me to recognize your authority. . . . I declare I will not comply. . . . The Imperial decree named you G.M. of the G. Orient, established 1772, but gave you no authority over ancient Masonry dating from 1723. . . . The Emperor alone has power to dissolve us. If he should believe it to be his duty to do so, I shall submit without hesitation; but as no law obliges us to be Masons in spite of our wishes, I shall permit myself, for my own part, to withdraw from your domination. Signed, Viennet."

Shortly afterwards, the Emperor expressed to Viennet his wish to see a fusion accomplished. The latter replied that he could not, according to the Statutes, allow a fusion, but would dissolve the Supreme Council if the Emperor wished it. As nothing further was done, it is probable the Emperor hinted to Magnan to let the matter drop. The circular of April 30 above mentioned caused, however, the dormant Rite of Memphis to petition for admission under the College of Rites, which took effect on October 18.

1862.—March 25.—Magnan wrote to the Minister of the Interior, that as he was now the person responsible to the Emperor, he must insist on the decrees closing several provincial Lodges being annulled. To which Persigny consented on the 29th.

May 20.—Magnan summoned the Grand Orient to meet on June 9 to revise the Constitution. Accordingly, on that and succeeding days it was slightly altered, the change consisting in greatly increasing the number of the Grand Master's Council, which was made entirely elective, and vested with the administrative power, subject to a veto of the G.M. who preserved the executive functions. This was certainly a step in the right direction. In 1862, 22 Lodges and Chapters were constituted, and 3 restored from dormancy to activity—a joyful sign of progress.

Rebold's History closes with 1862. The only books known to me which carry the History of French Freemasonry further, are the "*Allgemeines Handbuch*," vol. iv., presenting a mere encyclopaedic sketch, and Findel's 4th German edition, which, however, is in the main a summary of the