

years its correspondence with other Councils of the Thirty-third Degree has become worth attention. I presume it had originally a right to establish subordinate bodies in any British Colony or Dependency. I am, however, of opinion that if so, the non-user of that right for so long a period must now be taken as evidence that the right itself has either been extinguished or been conceded to one or other or both of the other British Councils. The Supreme Council for England and Wales now claims exclusive jurisdiction over the Dependencies of the British Crown. The Supreme Council for Scotland disputes that exclusive right, and claims co-ordinate and co-extensive powers in the British possessions abroad. This has led to a sharp contention, which has brought on an estrangement between those sister Councils, and the cessation of amicable relations between them. The arguments on both sides of this question have been laid before the Councils of the world; it would be impossible not to form an opinion on the subject, but as we are not called on to decide the question, I prefer not to offer any views of my own about it. Happily the dispute has not affected our position with respect to either of those Councils, and we continue, I rejoice to say, on the most friendly terms with both. And I earnestly recommend this Council not to assert a right which, if not extinguished, it would be both useless and mischievous to exercise in the present day.

"It is true that a Rose Croix chapter was for many years held at Lisbon under an Irish warrant, but not issued by our Supreme Council. It was issued by the "Council of Rites," established in 1846. Our Supreme Council has never exercised authority over the Rose Croix Degree in Ireland or elsewhere; partly because Rose Croix chapters, which were or assumed to be independent, had been established in Ireland before our Supreme Council was formed; partly because the Council of Rites had assumed the functions of a Supreme Council, and thus had thrown into obscurity the Council of the Thirty-third Degree founded here twenty years before. My own opinion of these matters is that the Freemasons of Ireland were, in those days, somewhat ignorant of the nature of the A.° and A.° S.° Rite. However that may be, it seems unquestionable that the ideas entertained by some of them about the paramount eminence and importance of the Rose Croix Degree caused that and all the higher Degrees to be regarded with jealousy, and even with hostile feelings, as if they were inimical to the simplicity of what was called Ancient Masonry. All these causes combined to prevent our Supreme Council from being able, even if so disposed, to assume its proper position. The independence of the Rose Croix Degree in Ireland has caused great surprise elsewhere. I have been often asked how it was possible that in a country where the A.° and A.° Rite was practised, and a Council of the Thirty third Degree established, the Rose Croix Degree (the eighteenth of the series) should not be subject to the Thirty-third Council. The fact that it is not so was long unknown or unregarded in other places. But a great change has taken place since the multiplication of Masonic periodicals and journals, and the circulation of the very able addresses and reports contained in the proceedings of the Councils for both Jurisdictions of the United States. Many who formerly were hardly aware of the existence of our Council are now anxious to hear of its history and its proceedings. I thought it my duty candidly to state these facts

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