

forbids the existence of any secret society on the soil of Japan. The appeal was made to the Southern Council in the hope that it would influence the Government of the United States to have the Masonic Order specially exempted from the operation of the Japanese laws, and the Secretary of that Council sent a copy to us and requested this Council to lend a hand and if possible aid in this matter. The document is attached hereto and with it a copy of my reply.

This Council has issued a draft of a revised constitution, in which, among many changes, it is proposed to transfer the See of the Council from Charleston to Washington.

SUPREME COUNCIL OF ENGLAND, WALES, ETC.

We have received the annual circular of this Council, giving in a few words a report of some of their doings. Another joint meeting of the three British Councils was to be held at Edinburgh in April last. A letter was received by the united Councils from the Supreme Council of Switzerland suggesting a revival of the convention of Supreme Councils of the world to be held this year, the same as was held at Lausanne in 1875. The British Councils were of the opinion that as the 1875 meeting was not productive of any good results it would be inadvisable to take part in such meetings for the future.

The Supreme Council of England has adopted a rule providing that in all cases of suspension, exclusion or expulsion passed by the Grand Lodge, or by any other recognized Masonic authority, of a Brother who is a member of the A. & A. S. R., he shall, *ipso facto*, be also suspended, excluded or expelled by that body. This goes further than we have gone, or I fancy would like to go. We very properly confirm the action of the Grand Lodge of Blue Masons in their disciplining a member who may belong to our Rite, as the Blue degrees are part of our system, but it seems to me too far reaching to subordinate our members to the judgment of other Bodies of the Order not connected with us and who may have no sympathy with us.

We have received the usual red book of this Council, and we have also received a very kind letter of sympathy from this Council on account of the death of our dear Brothers, PETEES and MENET.

SUPREME COUNCIL OF BELGIUM.

This Body which I have the honor to represent issues a Bulletin which we have always considered as one of the very best publications of the kind, and up to the last three years have been favored with it. Since this period it seems to have been withheld from us. We regret this exceedingly, not only on account of the loss of the valuable information the Bulletin used to supply, but also from the cessation of that friendly correspondence which was constantly exchanged between us. This silence was however broken by the receipt of a pamphlet from this