

[Oct.,

1882.]

SUPREME COUNCIL.

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Council the hand of the Omnipotent has been heavy upon us in removing so suddenly from our midst our beloved chief. Though incapacitated by sickness from presiding at our last session I little thought that my consequent temporary occupancy of his place was so quickly to be confirmed by his death. Words are of no avail to express the depth of our bereavement, yet we may in the midst thereof console ourselves with the knowledge that he died "full of honors and full of years," crowned with the laurels of a well-spent life, and we may safely hope that in the great hereafter he will meet with his reward.

This is the first break in our ranks and it is somewhat strange that our *first* well-beloved Grand Commander should be selected to lead the way in which each one of us must follow him in our turn.

The Rite in Canada has also to mourn the death of several members of the Hamilton bodies, especially of Ill. Bro. Jonathan M. Meakins, 32° of Hamilton, who passed to his eternal rest on the 5th day of May last, and whose loss will be severely felt by the Craft in all its branches, as he was one of its most loved and valued members.

In the neighboring Republic neither of the two Jurisdictions have escaped the scythe of the Reaper of all mankind. Our Brethren of the Northern Jurisdiction have suffered the loss of Ill. Bro. Jno. Sheville, 33° and more recently of Ill. Bro. Alvin Blodget Allen, 33° both of them active members of the Sup. Co. and the latter its deputy in the State of Wisconsin, whilst the Southern Jurisdiction has lost Ill. Bro. Horace Halvey Halbert, 33° and Ill. Bro. Robert Farmer Bower, 33°, both of them active and beloved members of the Southern Sup. Co.

Peru has also to mourn the death of its Sov. Gr. Com. Antonio de Souza Ferreira, who was one of the founders of that Sup. Co. and on your behalf I tender our sincere and heartfelt sympathy.

CONDITION OF THE RITE.

This is a subject that I approach with very great grief as I regret to say that our hitherto peaceful Jurisdiction has been ruthlessly invaded by two spurious bodies, one calling itself the

SUPREME COUNCIL 33° A. & A. R.

for British North America, aided and abetted by members of our own obedience.

What these misguided men can hope to gain by attempting to establish this clandestine body at the cost of their honor and integrity, I am at a loss to know, as there is not the most remote chance of their being recognized by any of the legitimate Supreme Councils of the world, by every one of which the Sup. Co. for the Dominion of Canada has been duly recognized and is on terms of the most perfect amity.

This movement undoubtedly owes its origin to a spurious body in the Northern Jurisdiction of the United States calling itself the