

[Oct.,

1879.]

SUPREME COUNCIL.

II

with several valued communications. 1st, I have received from him a new Book valuable to the Rite, entitled "The Book of the Words." Like all works emanating from him it is most erudite, and the copy sent is a gift to this Supreme Council, which I have handed to the Secretary General for presentation to you, and for which our thanks are due. 2nd, I am in receipt likewise of the proceedings simplifying the Titles of Degrees, Bodies and Officers of the Rite, as decreed in March last to be the Titles hereafter to be used exclusively in the Southern Jurisdiction of the U. S. The Supreme Council of Ireland has, I understand, decided on the same line of action, and I think the Supreme Council of the Northern Jurisdiction of the U. S. has expressed an intention of examining into the subject. This matter has been mentioned to you before, (see proceedings 1878, page 16,) I strongly advise its consideration. The existing Titles of the Rite are cumbersome and behind the spirit of the age, and in addressing one another, what can be more pleasing than to make use of the simple Title of "Brother!"—I leave the matter to your wisdom. 3rd, Ill. Brother PIKE has sent to me his Proposed Articles for a Conciliar League of Supreme Councils of the 33°, including a "Declaration of Principles," a necessary and fundamental one, being a belief in the existence of a true and living God, and also a proposed "Confession of Faith," to be required of all persons seeking to receive the 32°. I need only submit this Document to you, free from remarks, to receive at your hands the deliberation such an important matter is justified in expecting. The League is formed at present by the Supreme Councils following, viz :

1. The Southern Jurisdiction of the U. S. of America.
2. Ireland.
3. Scotland.
4. Central America.
5. Greece.

I cannot refrain, however, from referring you to Art. 3, Sect. 6, page 5, which enacts—"That no person can ever be recognized as lawfully invested with any "Degree of the Antient and Accepted Scottish Rite, by having received it, or a "Degree so numbered, or claiming to be such, as a part of the *Rite of Mizraim*, "or of the *Rite of Memphis*, or in a Body of either, or from any one conferring the "Degrees of either."

Even if you should decide not to become at present a component part of the above-named proposed League, our Statutes and Regulations may properly be amended by the introduction of just such an article as I have quoted.

Our Ill. Friend and Brother PIKE has kindly advised me that he received a communication from certain Masons in Ontario, impugning the legality of this Supreme Council under the Constitution of 1786, and suggesting to our Brother PIKE the necessity of all our Proceedings being pronounced invalid—of our Warrant being declared void, and that this Dominion of Canada, as far as the A. and A. Scottish Rite is concerned, belongs really to the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction of the U. S. of America, and should be possessed by that Body, and that we should rightly acknowledge allegiance thereto.