

[Oct.,

1881.]

SUPREME COUNCIL.

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"continued. The Council was never unpopular; indeed, it was hardly
"deemed worth attention; but the 'Rose Croix' became unpopular for some
"time, because its leaders (as it seems to me) mistook their mission altogether,
"and at last made the Masonic Body at large dislike or despise their assumed
"powers; so that at last the Rose Croix or 'Prince Masonry' of those days
"had really to struggle for its own existence, and would have died the death
"which threatened it, had not some changes been forced upon the zealous but
"very opinionated men who were then the Masonic luminaries of the High
"Grades, though held in very slight esteem by the General Body of the Order.
"Those changes infused new strength and vigor into the Rose Croix Degree,
"which has ever since gone on prospering, and is, I trust, likely to prosper;
"because its power rests on opinion, and that opinion rightly exercised. But
"the Council of 33d has thus lost much of the importance it ought to have.
"Moreover, the Rose Croix Degree itself is in a somewhat unpleasant condi-
"tion, because some Brethren of other countries have felt at a loss how to
"recognize the claims of the Irish Rose Croix Body, while they naturally felt
"reluctant to dispute or openly question them. I thought, and I still think,
"there would be no difficulty in arranging this matter in a way advantageous
"and honorable to the Rose Croix Chapters (including the Grand Chapter),
"as well as to ourselves, and I confess I had hoped to effect that object, while
"there was yet time, before the close of my long Masonic career, so that
"something might remain to entitle me to the good will of the succeeding
"Masonic generation in Ireland. But I fear such will not be my good fortune.
"Some one more active, more energetic, or more fortunate, may yet be able
"to follow the course I have indicated; but all I have said has been totally
"disregarded hitherto. Like the spear flung by the venerable Priam, it fell
"to the ground '*telum imbellis sine ictu*,' and, like him, I have not strength or
"spirit to take it up again."

No doubt it is very difficult to rearrange the existing order of Irish
Masonry; but all the members of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in
that country should be prepared to make some sacrifice to bring the system
into harmony with the practice of the Rite the world over. In closing his
address the Illustrious Brother eloquently says: "It is pleasant to meet here,
"face to face, at this season, when brighter sunshine gladdens the lengthening
"days, and Hope naturally revives with the reviving spring. Yet we cannot
"but share in the sadness and apprehension which now pervade this distracted
"country. Angry contention and perplexing fear of change engross the minds
"of all around us, and we must of necessity be involved in one way or another
"in the fierce struggle, the tumult of which fills the air. We cannot but feel
"that events are impending, which, be the ultimate result of them for the better
"or the worse, must in their present operation bring trouble and distress to
"many—it may be to some of ourselves. Discouraged and disheartened we
"well may be, whether we look only to the anxious and gloomy present, or
"forward to the dark future. But our trust is in no mere blind chance, in no
"grinding inexorable law, in no merely human effort, in no vague 'creative
"principle.' Our trust is in the Living God. In Him, as Masons, we profess to