

(formed in 1801) had a perfect right to adopt them as the law of the new order, no matter where, when, or by whom they were made, as Anderson's Constitutions were adopted in Symbolic Masonry: *that they are and always have been the law of the Rite*, because they were so adopted, and because no man has ever lawfully received the Degrees of the Rite, without swearing to maintain them as its supreme law." In view of this testimony, so decidedly given, by the two most eminent and learned members of the Rite, I think that all interested must, without hesitation, acknowledge that the Constitutions of 1786 are and have always been, the supreme and fundamental law of the A. and A. S. Rite. Let us now consider carefully one particular clause of the Constitutions, and the bearing that it has upon the present position of Canadian members of the Rite. I refer to Article V., Section III., which reads as follows: "In each of the great nations of Europe, whether kingdom or empire, there shall be but a single Supreme Council of the 33rd Degree. In all those states and provinces, as well of the main land as of the islands, whereof North America is composed, there shall be *two* Councils, one as great a distance as may be from the other. In all those states and provinces also, whether of the main-land or the islands, whereof South America is composed, there shall be two Councils, one at as great a distance as possible from the other. Likewise, there shall be one only in each empire, supreme state, or kingdom, in Asia, Africa," &c., &c. In the Preamble, it is declared that "these Degrees *are and for ever shall be* the Constitutions, statutes, and regulations, for the government of the Rite," consequently they cannot, by any authority whatever, be ever abrogated, altered, or changed. I think it must be held as an undeniable fact, that by the Constitutions of 1786, unaltered and unalterable as they are, and binding upon every

member of the Rite, inasmuch as he has solemnly sworn to observe them in their integrity, that two Supreme Councils, and *two only*, can legally exist in North America, and that if more than that number should have been inadvertently created, that those in excess of the two first are of necessity illegal, and are in fact *nullities*. Unfortunately there are now more than two Supreme Councils in North America; there are *three* to my certain knowledge, and possible may be more, as, for all I know to the contrary, Mexico and the Central American States may claim to possess one each. Those of which I have information are as follows: First, the S. C. of the Southern Jurisdiction of the U. S., dating from 1801. Second, the S. C. of the Northern Jurisdiction of the U. S., dating from 1815. Third the S. C. of the Dominion of Canada, dating from 1874. The S. C. of the Northern Jurisdiction has authority over only fifteen States, which were specially given up to it by the S. C. of the Southern Jurisdiction, which claims the remainder of the States on account of its priority of origin, amongst which States are Iowa, California and Minnesota.

As it has been *proved* that only two Supreme Councils can legally exist in North America, and as it is certain that the two legal Councils are those of the Southern and Northern Jurisdiction of the U. S., it behooves Canadians, claiming to be members of the A. and A. S. Rite, to consider what their real position is. It must be evident to every one who had followed the proofs above given, that the so-called Supreme Council of Canada, created in 1874, was and is an illegal body, being formed contrary to both the letter and the spirit of the Constitutions of 1786. It is true that this S. C. was inaugurated by Bro. Pike himself, under warrant from the S. C. of England, but neither Bro. Pike nor the S. C. of England, nor any other man or body of men, had the power of authority to repeal or