

dignity to our Assemblies, and as aids to creating a high sense of personal respect, individually, provided always that a true Masonic spirit underlies their use. On the other hand, it may be forcibly urged that they are inconsistent with the spirit of Masonic equality, that they are unnecessary, and that their appearance in the public newspapers and secular journals, attached to the names of simple and unobtrusive citizens, does not tend to dignify our institution in the eyes of the world. It is, however, no part of the duty of your Committee to make any recommendation to the Supreme Council in this matter. They merely record the action of a sister Supreme Council.

The Committee think that it would be interesting to the members of the Rite in Canada to print with the proceedings of the present year Ill.^o Bro.^o PIKE's views upon the connection with, and authority of the Supreme Council over, the Symbolic Degrees. Without adopting or dissenting from those views, the Committee think that it will be admitted by every member of the Rite, who calmly weighs the subject, that the attempts at control over the Symbolic Degrees by the Supreme Councils have been the prolific parent of disorder, confusion and bad feeling. It is, perhaps, natural for men everywhere to assume that the system of government which they have devised or chosen or created is the best system. It is natural, therefore, that we should prefer our own, and see in it many merits over foreign systems. Yet every dispassionate observer will admit that in countries like the United States and the Mother Land, where the Symbolic Lodges have representative government, and where they are not controlled by the Supreme Councils, there is far more harmony, better government and more satisfactory results than there is in those countries where there is a mixed system, or where the Supreme Council controls Symbolic Lodges, or where, as is unfortunately the case in some instances, the independence of the Supreme Council is merged in a "Grand Orient." Bro.^o PIKE's views show the growth of opinion in his own mind as to the authority of Supreme Councils over the degrees named, and are interesting reading. (See appendix G)

The condition of the Rite in the Southern States, and particularly in the Southwestern States, is excellent. There is marked progress in many directions and much to rejoice over.

The Supreme Council mourns the death of one of its active members, JOHN BURTON MAUDE, of the State of Missouri, who died on 29th April, 1879, aged 40 years, and who had been a member of the Supreme Council since 1874.

EGYPT.

The position of the Rite in Egypt is, that the Supreme Council having been regularized as legitimate by the Supreme Council for Italy, has been recognized as legitimate by the Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, by that of Ireland, of Scotland, of Greece, and perhaps by some other Supreme Councils. We might do the same, but as we have asked the views of the Supreme Council of England, it is at least courteous to await an answer. The Supreme Council for Egypt committed a grave irregularity in establishing a

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