

A Mason, upon taking his degrees in his blue lodge, does so with the distinct understanding that he is entering upon a system of symbolism within which are veiled certain great secret and scientific truths; he takes his degrees, and then finds that there are various avenues of more or less interest opened out to him; he proposes to enter one, and to his amazement, astonishment and disgust, finds there is an arbitrary enactment of his Grand Lodge against his receiving more light from that source, although he has been informed by well-read Masons that such a branch of Masonry is well worthy of profound thought and careful study. He finds his Masonic ambition crippled; he finds himself tabooed from taking the very grades in which he fancies he will be most interested. Now, we ask any honorable Mason, if it is not a most retrograde movement, this attempt on the part of a Grand Lodge to shackle the opinions and Masonic knowledge of its members? The result of such action will and must necessarily be dire and open opposition to such an infamous effort to make the Masons of Massachusetts mere puppets in the hands of a certain clique, who are working Northern-Jurisdiction-Supreme-Scotch-Riteism under the cloak of Symbolic Masonry. The Grand Lodges of the United States and Canada are quick enough to protest when a Grand Lodge official puts 32° or 33° after his official signature, and it is right that they should be, as ancient Craft Masonry has naught to do with any of the higher degrees, and consequently we deem this action upon the part of so conservative a Grand Lodge as that

of Massachusetts as both unwise and uncalled for.

In conclusion, we can only say that the edict has proved inoperative from the fact that the Supreme Council 33° of the Ancient and Accepted Rite of the United States of America was, at the request of seventy-five Freemasons, last month, "after a lapse of twenty years, convened in the city of Boston," and the degrees of the Rite conferred upon those present, at the conclusion of which Ill. Bro. Hopkins Thompson, Sovereign Grand Commander, granted dispensations for the establishment in the city of Boston of the following bodies: Joseph Cerneau Lodge of Perfection, 14°; DeWitt Clinton Council of Princes of Jerusalem, 16°; DeWitt Sovereign Chapter of Rosi Croix, 18°, and DeWitt Clinton Council of Kadosh, 30°, all which bodies are duly and ably officered. Thus we see the very Supreme Grand Council that was denounced planting its banners, as it has a right to do, in this hot-bed of Northern Jurisdiction Scotch Riteism, while the annual convocation of the Sovereign Sanctuary of the United States of America is to be held in the same city on the 20th of next month, when it is expected that Representatives will be present from all parts of the Union, and in all probability a delegation from the Sovereign Sanctuary of Canada.

We have discussed this matter at considerable length, and we believe from an impartial standpoint; we have always held that our Grand Lodges should not tamper with or interfere in any way with these so-called higher degrees. If the Fraternities of the Temple, or the Sir Knights of