

It is said, that in the Charter of the Supreme Council of Scotland it is limited to Scotland. This I deny, and I shall be glad to be furnished with any authority for the statement. The Charter creates the Supreme Council of Scotland, and fixes its head-quarters at Edinburgh, but it contains no limit except as regards one point. It specifies the lawful Councils recognized by France, and declares that it shall not recognize any other.

But it is late in the day for the Supreme Council of England to put forth such a claim. In the year 1871 this Council established a Consistory in New Brunswick, and not only was this recognized by the Supreme Council of England, but in granting a Charter to the Supreme Council of Canada, the Supreme Council of England made it a condition that a proper place should be given to the Scotch Consistory, and this was done.

In the year 1871, also, a proposal was made by the Supreme Council of England, that a Concordat should be entered into between the three Councils of England, Ireland and Scotland, for the purpose of regulating their actings in the Colonies; and the following was the Clause adjusted between this Council and the Supreme Council of England:—

“II. The Allied Councils, with the view of remedying as far as possible the evils resulting from the different Jurisdictions of England, Scotland and Ireland having subordinate Lodges, Chapters, Councils or Consistories in the Colonies, working the same Orders in the same places, agree that so long as in the Colonies, in St. John's, Royal Arch, and Temple Masonry, the practice prevails of each of the three Grand Lodges, Chapters or Priors, having subordinate Lodges, Chapters or Priors, working under their own Jurisdiction, it would be impracticable, and lead to greater evils, to adopt a different rule in the case of the Supreme Councils of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, but that, in the event of their being, in the same Colony or Dependency, Lodges, Chapters, Councils or Consistories, working under more than one of the Allied Councils, such Lodges, Chapters, Councils or Consistories shall only admit those who have been initiated in Lodges holding under the Jurisdiction of the same country as that to which the Council belongs, without the special permission of the Supreme Council of the country of which any one desiring to be admitted is a Master Mason.”

The Concordat was ready to be signed, when, in consequence of the Supreme Council of Ireland being unable to sign it, it fell to the ground. But so far as the rights of the Supreme Councils of England and Scotland were concerned, it clearly shows what each understood to be, not only its own rights, but the rights of the other.

Again, in the year 1874, this Council established a Rose Croix Chapter in the island of Trinidad, in the West Indies, and, as the place was too small to support two Chapters, the Supreme Council of England refused to grant a Charter to an English one which was applied for there, in consequence of the Scotch one having been started. This was communicated to me by letter dated 13th July, 1875.

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