

1844.—September 6.—The Lodge of the "Trinosophes" at Paris affiliated a brother Noël de Quersoniers, aged 115! (?)¹

1845.—In this year there began a series of congresses to discuss questions of general and Masonic interest, such as pauperism, schools, and cognate subjects, some of which approached perilously near to the *malum prohibitum*, viz., current politics. The Revolution of 1848 was already in the air. The first congress was held—July 30—at La Rochelle; and August 31, the Lodges at Strassburg inaugurated one at Steinbach in honor of Erwin, the architect of the cathedral,² at which many German Lodges were represented. Six Lodges met at Rochefort June 7, 1846; others assembled at Strassburg, August 18; at Saintes, June 5-7, 1847; and at Tonlouse, June 22. A further one was projected at Bordeaux for 1848, but the Grand Orient stepped in on January 17, 1848, and forbade these congresses altogether.

1846.—February 27.—The Grand Orient held a Lodge of mourning for its deceased members—1843-45—amongst whom was Joseph Napoleon, last Grand Master of France.³

April 3.—Reports and complaints that the Prussian Lodges refused to receive as visitors Frenchmen who were Jews, were taken into consideration. The G.O. expressed its indignation, and instructed its representatives at the Berlin Grand Lodges, to endeavour to procure an alteration in the statutes of those bodies, but at the same time strictly enjoined French Lodges to refrain from reprisals. A more pronounced action on the part of England may have possibly assisted in bringing one at least of those bigoted Grand Lodges more into harmony with the spirit of the age.⁴

June 1.—The Supreme Council issued its first code of Regulations.⁵

1847.—April 2.—Bertrand was elected Deputy Grand Master, and was succeeded in the office of Representative—June 24—by Désanlis.⁶ On December 17 the commission entrusted with the revision of the Statutes made its report to the Grand Orient.

1848.—March 4.—The Grand Orient met after the overthrow of the Monarchy, and the formation of a Provincial Government, and resolved to send a deputation to the latter expressing sympathy with the Revolution, and joy at finding that its own maxim of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity had become the watchwords of the nation. Thus, again, we see it unable to refrain from political action—and worship, more or less sincere, of the rising sun. These sentiments were expressed to the Lodges in a circular of the 13th. The deputation presented itself on the 6th, and was received by Crémieux and Garnier-Pages, members of the government, both wearing Masonic regalia. The addresses on either side may be passed over with the bare comment that, though confining themselves to the letter of the truth respecting the rôle of the Craft, they violated its spirit by implication. But political events also tinged the preparations for passing the new Constitutions just announced as complete. A resolution was agreed to—March 20—ordering a new election of deputies in all Lodges to assist at the framing of the new ordinances, and a circular of the 25th calls upon all Lodges, without regard to rites and jurisdictions, to send deputies to form in the Grand Orient a most truly National Masonic assembly for all France. A further circular of April 7 was still more explicit. It invited all Lodges and all Masons in France to come and aid in establishing a Masonic unity of government. Here we plainly recognize the

¹ Rebold, Hist. des trois Grandes Loges, p. 186.

² Rebold, Hist. des trois Grandes Loges, p. 196.

³ Kloss, Gesch. der Freem. in Frank., vol. ii., p. 385.

⁴ Rebold, Hist. des trois Grandes Loges, p. 200.

⁵ Cf. Chap. VI., pp. 267, 318.

⁶ Ante, p. 272.