

3. The presiding officer cannot order a reconsideration on any subsequent night, nor on the same night, after any member who was present and voted has departed.

4. The Grand Master cannot grant a dispensation for a reconsideration, nor in any other way interfere with the ballot. The same restriction applies to the Grand Lodge.

SECRET SOCIETIES OF THE TYROL.

I LATELY described my excursion to the convent of Hauterive, and how I managed to find out that the son of Heloise and Abelard, whose fate has been a subject of controversy, and whose very existence has been frequently made a matter of doubt, was the third abbot of that monastery. It was in the course of my investigations with a view to elucidate this problematical question, that I met with a manuscript which had been contributed to the general stock in 1815, by an exiled Piedmontese officer, who sought a temporary asylum at Hauterive, where he found an eternal one—the tomb.

This manuscript, which treated of the Secret Societies of the Tyrol, struck me as very curious. It was written with a certain elegance, though in a wretched Italian dialect, (if, indeed, it be allowable to couple such words together, however well they may express my idea,) and may be looked upon as a valuable document of the general history of Europe during the first portion of the nineteenth century.

Being now on the eve of publishing this work, I easily obtained from the good fathers in exchange for a versified paraphrase of some of the Psalms, which I published in Rome in 1829, I shall, I fancy, give my readers an advantageous idea of the book by quoting the following episode. The Piedmontese officer shall now speak for himself.

The societies of the Tyrol did not think it necessary to conceal the mysteries of their initiations, perhaps the most extraordinary and well combined ever employed in any institution of the kind. As an example, I need only refer to what happened to an ancient superior officer, a friend of mine, from whose mouth I learned the following particulars:

Having become suspicious in Napoleon's eyes, after enjoying his confidence, which, by the way, he had never betrayed, he was obliged to take refuge in the most mountainous districts of the Austrian provinces, where he lived in complete retirement, and almost without holding any communication with his fellow-men.

Chance and necessity, however, having led to some intercourse with several of the inhabitants, which mutual sympathy had ripened into regard; and having given his new friends occasion to ascertain, beyond a doubt, that he nourished a deep-rooted hatred for the tyrant of Europe, he was at length informed that there existed a most extensive society of devoted brothers, whose sole object was the subversion of Napoleon's government, and was offered admission among their numbers. Being already long since attached to other associations having the same object in view, he hesitated not to accept the proposition, with the secret hope of bringing this society to co-operate with those already known to him. Scarcely had he consented, when he was initiated in a way to surprise him only by the simplicity of the formula employed on so solemn an occasion. It was merely an initiation to the first degree, which has frequently been extended to whole villages, and which was—