

which I will presently allude, all has gone on so smoothly that my own honorable office has almost proved a sinecure. Speaking generally, I know the Rite is progressing, but I think that this satisfactory state of things would become more marked if our respective Deputies, and indeed if each and every of our active 33rds were empowered by the Council to visit places they might deem large enough to support Lodges of Perfection, and select from among the Craft there good material, and there and then confer the Degrees from the 4° to 16° on the minimum number of members required by our Constitution, to establish a Lodge of Perfection, etc., such parties so received pledging themselves to the work of propagating the A. & A. S. Rite. It is always hard to bring a body of men away from their homes. I merely offer this as a suggestion, leaving the details, should the Council approve the principle, to be worked out by a Committee. I have conversed on this matter with the Ill. Secretary General, who is prepared with a scheme for carrying it into effect. I think such a course is adopted by other Supreme Councils.

"I have granted Warrants for separate Lodges of Perfection, one at Toronto, and the other at St. John, New Brunswick. I had the pleasure of being present at a meeting at Hamilton, of the Ontario Consistory 32°, and witnessing the admirable working of the 30° Kadosh there. I was shown the rooms set apart at Toronto for the working of the Rite, which were appropriate and convenient, and do credit to our Brethren. I would have visited London, but could not accomplish it. I was, however, assured that our Brethren there were greatly exerting themselves. The Montreal Bodies need no express mention here. We are eye witnesses of their value to the Rite, and any personal praise from me would be superfluous. Respecting our Brethren of the Maritime Provinces, I am unable to tender any personal report, but I am rejoiced to be able to say that their energy and perseverance have, as I understand, conquered the effects of the terrible fire and serious losses incurred in New Brunswick.

"Our Relations with Sister Supreme Councils continue to be all we can desire, although the Exchanges of Representatives have not yet been completely established. I may mention that Representatives are appointed near Ireland, Switzerland, Brazil and Colon, and I have recommended Representatives near us for Switzerland, Brazil, Colon, France and Italy. Spain and Mexico have, during the year, sought our recognition, and their letters will be presented to you. There are other Councils, whose standing has not yet been arrived at, and with which we have no correspondence. Our Illustrious Secretary General will supply particulars.

"I offer, in conclusion, some general remarks, for which I trust I shall not be deemed presumptuous. Notice of motion was given last year in relation to the absence of Members of the Supreme Council from our annual sessions, and the declaring their seats vacant as Active Members. You are aware that some Brethren have not hitherto appeared at all—not thinking it worth while even to forward written apologies and excuses. This is neither correct nor courteous, and should not be. The work of the A. & A. Scottish Rite should be shared and carried on by all. It does seem to me that the Rite is looked upon by some, more as a kind of Side Degree than as a distinct and important body, to belong to which ought to be deemed a privilege. It would seem that Brethren, having attained high rank in other branches of Freemasonry, (for which they had, however, to work), consider the right of placing 33° opposite their names as a kind of reward for services foreign to the A. & A. Scottish Rite. This is unfair to their Brother 33rds, who, instead, acknowledge their specific duties to the Rite and strive to fulfil them. Our numbers are necessarily few, and it is of importance, therefore, that every active 33rd should give to our body the benefit of his presence and counsel once a year. The actual meeting and communion together should have a good effect, and conduce to good fellowship, and our Subordinate Bodies cannot fail to appreciate our labors better, when the published proceedings show them, that their Active Chiefs take a palpable and practical interest in their welfare, as well as that of the Rite generally.

"I regret to occupy your time, but I have one more matter to which I invite your attention and consideration. Information was conveyed to me that parties from the United States of America had addressed invitations to members of the A. & A. S. Rite in Canada to establish what are called the respective Rites of "Mizraim" and "Memphis," and promising easy admittance thereto to parties owing allegiance and obedience to our Supreme Council, who were told that the essentials in all were alike. I lost no time in transmitting to our various Bodies letters of caution and warning, (copy of which will be exhibited by our Illustrious Secretary General,) the issuing of which, I have reason to believe, had a salutary effect. But I am sorry to state that a document (which I hardly know how to give an exact name to,) was subsequently circulated, bearing no signature, but born at Maitland, in Ontario. There appeared likewise an article in a Masonic publication, THE CRAFTSMAN, relating to the above named Rites, and added thereto another styled the "Ancient and Primitive Rite." The first document contained a list or roll of some thirty Bodies,