

£3 3s. It is therefore too plain for argument that the agreement is at an end, and was ended years ago. Whether a new agreement should be made is a different question, but the old one has absolutely disappeared, and no logic or sophistry can revive it.

"Such being the facts, it is now for the Supreme Council to say if a new agreement should be made. This matter is brought under the notice of the Council in the enclosed report, and it is unnecessary to repeat what is there stated. But there are two considerations which it may be well to keep in view in dealing with the question :

"1. The Supreme Council has practically nothing to do with admissions to the 18th Degree. All its powers in this respect have been vested in the Rose Croix Chapters to which charters have been granted. Is it seriously proposed that it is to say to all these Chapters that they shall only in future admit to the 18th Degree members of the Royal Order, even in places where the Royal Order does not exist? And if it is not to do so generally, is there any reason why it should be done in the City of Edinburgh only, where alone it is pretended that the agreement was ever observed at all? To pass a formal law of the Supreme Council to control the action of a Rose Croix Chapter in Edinburgh is too absurd to be seriously contemplated. As already explained, when the Supreme Council itself conferred the 18th Degree it could quite well resolve to admit to it only members of the Royal Order, but now when it has given up that practice, surely the proper course would be for the Royal Order and the Edinburgh Rose Croix Chapter to arrange the matter between themselves. If the Edinburgh Rose Croix Chapter choose to keep out any one who has not taken the Royal Order, the Supreme Council has no interest to interfere, and as the Committee of the Royal Order says that the office-bearers of the Rose Croix Chapter are in favor of continuing the arrangement, by all means let them do so. No one will try to prevent them, and the only thing that excites surprise is that there should have been such a storm in a tea-cup. By arranging with the Consistory, as they imply that they can, matters, so far as the mere qualifications of candidates in Edinburgh are concerned, will go on as before ; and if this is all the Royal Order really desires, it is fortunate that it can so easily obtain it.

"2. But is this all, or really what the Committee of the Royal Order desires? An explanation was given by one of the Committee, and it was to the following effect : The Royal Order, he said, may, if separated from the Supreme Council, be considered a 'side Degree,' and may be passed over by candidates who only desire the regular series. This is certainly an explanation of all this turmoil, and it is one which the Supreme Council must carefully scrutinize. There can be no doubt that the Royal Order is a side Degree, and it is perhaps in a more unfavorable position than that of what may be called universal side Degrees, inasmuch as it is entirely a Scottish Degree. Now, this being so, how would an agreement with the Supreme Council as to the admission of Candidates in the Edinburgh Rose Croix Chapter alter its position in the least? Surely the Committee does not contend that such an agreement would clothe the Royal Order with the prerogatives of the Supreme Council, and raise it from a side Degree to the position

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