

1879.—July 14.—No less than sixteen Lodges protested against the recent proceedings of the Supreme Council, and—August 12—a circular was issued signed by 103 Masons, announcing the formation of a provisional committee of five for the following purposes:— (1.) To inform the Supreme Council of the resolution to form a *Grande Loge Symbolique* under the obedience of the Supreme Council, or temporarily outside such obedience; and (2.) to obtain as soon as possible the support of the various Lodges who had already shown themselves favorable to the movement.

Crémieux, the Sovereign Grand Commander, then intervened, and of his own accord reinstated all the suspended members, but the Supreme Council disavowed his act on October 30, by erasing the names of the six most prominent offenders. This naturally meant war to the knife, and nine Lodges issued a circular on November 20, declaring that they thereby constituted themselves into a Grand Independent Symbolic Lodge, and inviting the other Lodges to join them. Therein, they curiously profess to remain, as ever, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Masons; they do not wish to establish a new Rite, but to resume the rights and power which the Supreme Council had usurped in their despite. Their motto is thus expressed—"The government of the high degrees to the Supreme Council, that of the Lodges to the Grand Lodge." This retention of the (so-called) Scottish Rite, with its 33 degrees, has been further emphasised by a change of title to "*Grande Loge Symbolique Ecossaise*," but in Lodge or Grand Lodge no degree beyond that of Master Mason is recognized. The first constituent assembly was called for December 20, 1879.

The Supreme Council replied to this on November 29 and December 5 by erasing more names; and on February 10, 1880, all hopes of a reconciliation were destroyed by the death of the Sov. G. Com. Crémieux.

On February 12 the new Grand Lodge received the permission of government to hold its meetings, and announced its existence at home and abroad by circular of March 8. It was composed of 12 Lodges—at Paris 8, and 1 each in Havre, Saintes, Lyons, and Egypt.

1880.—March 11.—The Supreme Council, thoroughly worsted, issued a general amnesty, but it was too late. The Grand Lodge had attained a separate existence, and refused to give up its independence; but it acknowledged the jurisdiction of the Supreme Council, in all matters concerning the high degrees, over such of its members as passed beyond the 3rd degree.

Its Constitutions, approved August 23, 1880, deserve a few words of notice. The first declaration of principles reads, "*Freemasonry rests on the solidarité humaine.*" This evasion of the acknowledgment of a Divine Power places it outside Anglo-Saxon Freemasonry. It requires of its members loyalty to their country and abstention from politics in Lodge. The Grand Lodge is composed of deputies from each Lodge, who need not be members of the provincial—but must be of the Paris Lodges, and also residents in the metropolis. Three members of Grand Lodge are elected as the Executive Commission; they may not accept or hold Grand Office. A president directs the meetings of Grand Lodge, but he is not a Grand Master, having no executive power. Also—unheard-of liberality in French Masonry—no restriction or censorship is placed upon Masonic publications, whether emanating from an individual or a Lodge. The remainder of the 71 articles breathe a like spirit of liberty with order, and were it not for the unfortunate agnostic principles of this new body, the Grand Lodge appears worthy of support. Its jurisdic-