

1886.]

SUPREME COUNCIL.

II

been greatly impressed by the great success of the Rite, and its very rapid spread, and I am convinced that it arises from the active and earnest interest taken in it by the members of the Supreme Council.

It is quite true that, in our case, our duties as professional or business men preclude us from devoting the same amount of time to the interests of the Rite as is so effectually done by the wealthy and independent members of our mother Supreme Council, but it has struck me that an incalculable amount of good might be accomplished by the appointment of one or more members of our governing body, with power to travel at the expense of the Supreme Council, paying frequently a visit to the numerous bodies of our obedience already in existence, supervising their work and aiding them with wise counsel and advice.

This would have the happy effect of infusing new life into all, and of proving that our interest in their welfare is genuine and heartfelt, and something more than an annual revision of their doings. In this way these Representatives would be in a position to supplement the work of the Special Deputies, whose time is too fully occupied to enable them to make the necessary journey and consequent absence from their several callings.

They would also be able to select suitable places for the planting of new bodies, choose suitable brethren to form them, and confer upon them the necessary degrees, at the same time aiding them in their initial efforts.

This course would, in my humble opinion, in a very short time result in a very marked improvement in the work of the existing bodies, and in a wonderful accession to our numbers.

I leave this suggestion to your most careful consideration.

And now, brethren, my term of Office having come to a close, I resign my gavel into your hands with my warmest and most heartfelt thanks for your co-operation, and for the very great kindness and courtesy, which you have so invariably shown me during the period I have occupied the position.

No one can be more sensible, than I am myself, of my many short-comings, at the same time, I have the satisfaction of feeling in my heart, that I have acted to the very best of my poor ability in furthering the interests of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in this jurisdiction.

To my successor, I wish as happy and peaceful a reign as mine has been.

I hold out to him the right hand of good-fellowship, and promise him, who ever he may be, my hearty support and truly loyal allegiance.

As your retiring presiding officer, I once more heartily thank you, and with my warmest wishes for the happiness, long life, and welfare of you all, I sign myself for the last time,

Yours fraternally,



W. H. HUTTON, 33°,
Sov.°. Gr.°. Com.°.