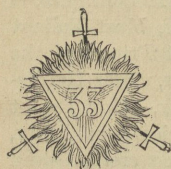
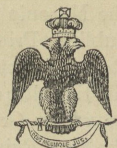
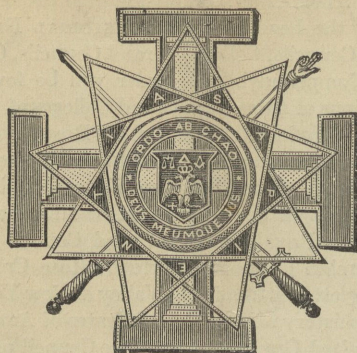


UNIVERSI ORBIS TERRARUM ARCHITECTONIS

MAGNI AD GLORIAM



DEUS MEUMQUE JUS.



ORDO AB CHAO.

FROM THE ORIENT OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTORS-GENERAL, THIRTY-THIRD AND LAST DEGREE OF THE ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THEIR TERRITORIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

To all Free and Accepted Masons of all Rites and Degrees wherever dispersed :

LIBERTY.

EQUALITY.

FRATERNITY.

During the Morgan excitement which commenced in 1827, several State Legislatures appointed Committees to investigate charges preferred against Freemasonry. The following is quoted from the "Report of a Joint Committee of the Legislature of Massachusetts," March, 1834, and the information should be of great value to the Masonic Fraternity at this time.

The "Joint Committee," in their report, said:

"The fourth and highest order, comprising what are termed the *Ineffable Degrees*, comes under the head of the CONSISTORIAL DEGREES, consisting of Lodges, Chapters, Councils, Colleges, Grand Councils, Consistories, and a Supreme Council. Comprised in this order will be found the following Bodies and designations of titles, viz: Grand Colleges of Rites,—Sovereign Princes of Masonry,—Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix, of the Triple Alliance, (which heads its orders,) 'IN THE NAME OF THE MOST HOLY AND UNDIVIDED TRINITY,'—Grand Secretary General of the Holy Empire,—the Masonic Government of the Union,—Most Illustrious, Most Valiant Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret,—Grand Council of 'Princes of the Royal Secret,—Sovereign Chapter of Princes Rose Croix, under the distinctive title of La Fayette, sitting in the Valley of New York,—Most Potent Sovereign Grand Consistory for the United States of America,—and lastly, the Most Puissant United Grand and Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors-General of the 33d degree, for the Western Hemisphere, having the sole and absolute control and direction of all bodies of Sublime and Perfect Masonry, in North, Central and South Americas, &c.

"The Grand Consistory dates its proclamations and manifestos in the following magnificent style:

" TO THE GLORY OF THE GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE
UNIVERSE."

* * * * *

"One of the Sublime Councils created by this Grand Consistory exists in this Commonwealth, as appears from the history of the town of Newburyport, by Caleb Cushing, Esq., published in 1826, which says, page 61: 'A Consistory has recently been established at Newburyport, in which all the higher degrees of Masonry are conferred.'

"There are also in the Commonwealth eight Councils of Royal and Select Masters, deriving their authority from the Grand Consistory or from the Supreme Council. * * *

"From the facts presented to the Committee, they infer, as a matter of estimate, that the different grades of Freemasonry, united together in one Grand Masonic Government, and in operation in this country, forming a direct portion of Freemasonry all over the world, and therefore a branch of what is denominated 'THE HOLY EMPIRE,' comprise—

"1. A Supreme Council, having jurisdiction over North, Central and South Americas, and the West Indies.

"2. A Sovereign Grand Consistory for the United States, subject to the above power, and having six or eight subordinate Grand Councils in the different States, and numerous Sovereign Grand Chapters, &c."

The Lodges, Chapters, Encampments, &c., follow the above.

Continuing, the report says:

"In pursuing this inquiry, the Committee mainly rely for their information on a series of Masonic documents, sustained by Masonic authority, presented in evidence by the Counsel for the Memorialists. These documents, most of which are in manuscript, the Committee have carefully inspected; and from the internal evidence and the facts given in testimony before them, they are entirely satisfied that they are authentic originals, from the archives of the Masonic bodies, whose proceedings are therein contained. With this belief, the Committee will proceed to a development of their contents, and of the conclusions, in connection with other evidence, to which they have arrived.

"POWERS OF SOVEREIGNTY, *exercised in the formation of Treaties of Alliance, appointing and interchanging Ministers and Representatives, and Diplomatic Correspondence between Supreme Masonic Powers in the United States and in Foreign Countries, from 1826 to 1833.*

"Under this head, fourteen documents, of the entire authenticity of which the Committee can have no doubt, were presented and examined; of the contents of which the following is a correct summary, viz:

"Correspondence between the National Grand Lodge of Switzerland and the Supreme Council of the United States, viz:

"No. 1. A communication from 'the Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of Switzerland to the Grand Supreme Council of Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Inspectors-General, of the thirty-third degree, at the Grand Orient of New York. Safety, Strength, Union.' Dated at Berne, May 1, 1828.

"This document refers to 'the affecting communication which you' (viz: the Supreme Council of the United States) addressed to the ci-devant Grand Orient of Switzerland, on the 31st of October, 1827, which communication was transmitted to 'the Most Illustrious Brother, Pierre Louis de Tavel, of Kruyningen, actual Grand Master of the Freemasonry in the Eastern part of Helvetia, and President for life of the National Grand Lodge of Switzerland, sitting at Berne.' It thanks the Supreme Council for the information they have given of the prosperous state of the royal art in the United States, and for the documents and papers sent, 'persuaded that they will dawn a new light of great interest to the Lodges within our Masonic jurisdiction.'

"The Grand Lodge of Switzerland send to the Supreme Council of the United States, their statutes and process verbal of its institution, which they hope will merit their approbation, 'as it has received that of all the Grand Lodges of Europe.'

"Thus we find Masonry in its highest degrees in the United States, corresponding with Masonry in the three lowest degrees in Europe, and the latter applying to the former for an approval of its mode of Masonic work

"No. 2 Is a reply to the above, from 'the Most Illustrious Elias Hicks, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of Grand Inspectors-General, of the thirty-third degree, for the United States of America, their Territories and dependencies, sitting at the City of New York; to the Right Worshipful and Illustrious Brother, Pierre Louis de Tavel, de Kruyningen, Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of Switzerland.' It states that the communication above, and its accompaniments, have been laid before the Supreme Council of Inspectors-General—that they are convinced by experience of the benefits of regular epistolary Masonic intercourse, and the Supreme Council felicitates itself upon adding to the list of its fraternal correspondents the Grand Lodge of Switzerland. The reports of the names of unworthy members who are to be discountenanced and rejected, is deemed of itself a valuable consideration, for a punctual correspondence, and the most beneficial results are anticipated from the desire to 'draw closer the cord which should ever bind the members of the ancient and honorable Fraternity.'

"No. 3 Is a communication in French, from Joseph Cerneau, Grand Commander, dated Orient of New York, 9th Masonic month (November 10th), 1827, giving the Sovereign Grand Consistory of the Supreme Chiefs of High Masonry, for the United States, notice of his intended departure for France, and offering his services with the Grand Orient of France, of which he is an honorary member.

"He also informs the Sovereign Grand Consistory that two years before, he delivered up a Baton (Balustre) of the Most Illustrious Brother, *Hacquet*, resigning his *high office of Representative* of the Sovereign Grand Consistory, to the Grand Orient of France,—that he (Cerneau) nominated in his stead the Most Illustrious Brother, D'Aumale, then Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of France, whose nomination had been accepted by the Consistory, and whose credentials as Ambassador for the Grand Consistory of the United States to the Grand Orient of France, Mr. Cerneau proposes to take to him.

"It also appears from this document, that Mr. Cerneau was the Representative of the Grand Orient of France to the Grand Consistory of the United States; and that, on his departure, he was to nominate one of the members of the Consistory, to replace him in that capacity.

"No. 4. At a meeting of the Grand Consistory, November 10, 1827, the nomination of Lefevre D'Aumale, in place of Germain Hacquet, '*as Representative near the Grand Orient of France*,' was accepted; and it was voted to prepare the necessary documents for him.

"It also appears from another document, that at a sitting of the Supreme Council of Inspectors-General, February 23, 1831, General La Fayette was requested to be the Representative of the Supreme Council of America, *near the Supreme Council of France*, and his diploma was to be forwarded to him." * * *

"A note from the Count St. Laurent, to the Grand Secretary, dated June 7, 1832, transmits to the latter, by order of Grand Commander Hicks, two

letters for Brother La Fayette, and the Supreme Council of France, copied by Mr. C. F., and corrected by Mr. Hicks, of which the Grand Secretary is requested to make clear copies. A note to the Grand Secretary, from Grand Commander Hicks, dated New York, June 16, 1832, urges the preparation of the communication to the Supreme Council of France, to be forwarded to that power, by the Count St. Laurent,—an immediate dispatch of the documents which can be got ready, being desirable.

"No. 5 Is a document stamped with the arms, and sealed with the seal, of the Supreme Council of the 33d degree for France, * * * * 2d day of the 3d month (May), A. L. 5830. This document is addressed from 'The Sovereign Grand Inspectors-General, legally and regularly established in Supreme Council of the 33d degree for France, * * * to their Illustrious Brothers, forming the Supreme Council of the 33d degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the United States of America, at New York.' This document bears every possible mark of authenticity. It is signed as with the original signatures of the Duke de Choiseul, Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander, Count Mutaire, Lieutenant Grand Commander, the Advocate General of the Court of Cassation, Dupin, Gennet, Belliard, and others, and is countersigned by the '*Secretary of the Holy Empire.*'

"It appears from this document that a controversy for Masonic supremacy existed between the Supreme Council of France and the Grand Orient of France, both claiming the right of exclusive interchange of diplomatic relations with the Supreme Council of America." * * * "The Supreme Council of France deny this power which the Grand Orient assumes, by its Grand College of Rites, to the universal and exclusive jurisdiction of Masonry in France; and complain of the deceitful pretences of the Grand Orient, to turn the Supreme Council of America away from the correspondence of the Supreme Council of France, and engage it in their own. To substantiate the claims of the Supreme Council of France, to the highest Masonic authority in that country, documents were forwarded to the Supreme Council of America, which proved satisfactory, as we find that body subsequently engaged in correspondence with the Supreme Council of France, and appointing a Minister to reside near that Masonic Power.

"IN THE INTERCHANGE OF MINISTERS or Representatives between high Masonic powers, it appears from these documents, that the Sovereign Grand Consistory of the United States, and the Grand Orient of France, interchanged diplomatic relations, and that the Supreme Council of America, and the Supreme Council of France, did the same,—so that two Masonic bodies in America, had their Ministers *near* two Masonic bodies in France at the same time. But the Consistory in the United States is entirely subject to the Supreme Council, which can suspend its functions at pleasure; and the Orient of France appears also to be held as subordinate (though refractory) to the Supreme Council for that Kingdom. The Supreme Council of France was instituted in 1804, and '*in 1821 was joined with the Supreme Council of America.*'

"A treaty of close alliance thus appears to have been formed between these two Masonic Powers in 1821. The Council for France complain of the efforts of intolerance, and of the most animated and implacable hostilities and persecution, against which, however, their courage, constancy and zeal had prevailed. They send to the American Council, a list of their 'solemn decrees, the organization of a Central Grand Lodge, festivals of order, funereal duties, institutions and installations of Lodges and Chapters: acts of every nature,'—but no evidence of *charity*. Among the documents thus forwarded to the American Council, mention is made of a Memorial on the Independence of Masonic Rites; and the Supreme Council of France desires the restoration of 'the natural and friendly relations which ought to exist between two parallel bodies of the same order and Rites,' and of which the Grand Orient of France, by intercepting the correspondence of the Supreme Council of America, had attempted to deprive them.

"No. 6 Is the record of a sitting of the Supreme Council, at the house of the Grand Secretary, No. 442 Greenwich Street, New York, on the 23d day of the 12th Masonic month (February), 1831, Grand Commander Elias Hicks, Lieutenant Commander Jonathan Schieffelin, Orazio de A. Santangelo, and George Smith, Grand Secretary, present.

"At this meeting, Santangelo presented the reply which he had prepared, (agreeably to a vote at a former meeting,) in answer to the communication received from the Supreme Council of France, which was read and approved. A resolution was afterwards passed, to open a correspondence with General La Fayette, and request him to represent the Supreme Council near the Supreme Council of France.

"A further correspondence was held between the two Supreme Councils, as late as the 2d February, 1832, as appears by the record of a sitting of that date, at which Grand Commander Hicks informed his Council that he had received a communication from the Supreme Council of France, with accompanying documents; whereupon the Illustrious Brother Santangelo, was requested to prepare an answer, and submit it at the next meeting.

"THE FORMATION OF TREATIES OF AMALGAMATION AND ALLIANCE, is a power which seems to have been frequently exercised by the Supreme Councils of Masonry. The Committee have already noticed one instance of it, in the union referred to, as having taken place in 1821 between Masonry in France and America.

"No. 7. February 23, 1832, at a sitting of the Supreme Council, the Grand Commander Hicks gave notice of a proposition to him, through the Marquis Santangelo, from 'the Most Illustrious Brother Count St. Laurent, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of Terra Firma, Porto Rico, South America, Canary Islands, &c., &c.,' to amalgamate his Supreme Council with the Supreme Council of America. A Committee of three was appointed to *treat* with the Count, by the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That a Committee of three be appointed, for the purpose of *treating* with a Committee to be appointed by the Most Illustrious Brother Count St. Laurent, Sovereign Grand Commander of Grand-Inspectors Gen-

eral of the 33d degree for Terra Firma, South America, Porto Rico, Canary Islands, &c., &c., and to form a *Treaty*, upon the basis proposed by him, through the Most Illustrious Brother Orazio de Attellas, Marquis Santangelo, to amalgamate his Supreme Council, with that of the United States of America, &c., &c.

"This resolution was communicated to Count St. Laurent the 25th of February, 1832.

"The treaty referred to in the above resolution was drawn up by the Count St. Laurent, in the French language, and dated the 14th day of February, 1832.

"It is addressed from 'M. A. N. A. R. de Jachim de Santa Rose de Rome de St. Laurent, Marquis of St. Rose, Count of St. Laurent, &c., &c., Sovereign Grand Inspector-General of the 33d and last degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Thrice Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander, *ad vitam*, of the Supreme Council of the Thrice Puissant Sovereign Grand Inspectors-General of the 33d and last degree of the same Rite, for the possessions formerly Spanish, Terra Firma, South America, Canary Isles, Porto Rico, &c., &c., &c.'

"'To the P. C. and Thrice Illustrious Brother, Marquis de Santangelo, Grand Inspector-General of the 33d degree of Scottish Rite, Ancient and Accepted, of the Thrice Puissant Sovereign Grand Inspectors-General, of the 33d degree of the same Rite, for the United States, their territories and dependencies.'

"The Count St. Laurent states that the noble and important *mission* was entrusted to him, of forming the proposed treaty of alliance—that these kinds of union between Masonic Powers of an homogeneous Rite, have often taken place in different parts of the world, and have always produced an effect advantageous to the Order, and protect 'the virtuous and peaceable propagators of the most sublime of all human institutions.' His object, he states to be 'to unite by a *Treaty*, and to join in one power,' the Supreme Council of America, and that of which he has been Grand Commander, *ad vitam*, since 1795; by which means the power of the ancient Rite in the New World would be consolidated, and the power and glory of the Supreme Council of the United States, would be propagated in all parts of that vast continent. * * *

"At the request of the Most Illustrious Brother Hicks, the Count accordingly submits his project in writing, to be regularly proposed to the Supreme Council of the United States. The basis of the treaty proposed is as follows:

"1. The union or complete fusion of the two Supreme Councils, to form, hereafter, *only one*.

"2. All the Consistories, Colleges, Chapters, and provincial or private Lodges, in the two hemispheres (North and South America), who hold their Constitutions from either of the Supreme Councils, entering into this treaty, shall become dependent on the authority of the two united powers, and participate in their correspondence.

"3. The Grand Inspectors and other Princes of Masonry, of South America, &c., shall become honorary members of the United Power, as long as they reside out of the seat of the United Power, and *active members*, as soon as they establish themselves within it.

"4. The Grand Commander of Terra Firma, South America, &c., shall *abdicate* his authority, in favor of the *reigning* Thrice Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander, and his successors of the Supreme Council of the United States, under the new title of Union; but he shall retain during life the title and powers of Single Grand Commander adjunct, of the new Power.

"5. This new Supreme Council of North, Central, and South Americas, shall, when it thinks proper, delegate its authority, partially to the Powers which it can erect in the new States on the vast continent of America, whose stability it shall judge out of the reach of every political commotion, which could change, modify, or annihilate the Masonic Power!

"6. In the decree of the Institution of the Supreme Council of Terra Firma, South America, &c., which was created by the ancient Supreme Council for Mexico and New Spain, each was to inherit the power of the other, whenever either should become extinct. 'The Supreme Council for Mexico and New Spain was entirely given up, in 1790, and the Government of the Rite of the HOLY EMPIRE, under its authority devolved upon the Supreme Council of Terra Firma, South America, &c., which since then has ably exercised the power of the order, over all the Lodges of the ancient dependence of the Supreme Council defunct.' 'These countries, therefore, (Mexico and New Spain,) under the United Council, will also be comprehended within those of the *Masonic government of the Union*.'

"No. 9. The 12th of March, 1832, the Marquis Santangelo, addressed a note, which appears to be in his handwriting, to his colleagues, Messrs. Smith and Schieffelin, who were with him on the Committee, for the purpose of approving the above treaty, giving his views of said treaty, and desiring them to ask from the Grand Commander an order for the convocation of the Supreme Council to insert the *treaty*, as ratified in its GOLDEN Book, &c.

"This treaty of union and amalgamation, by which all the countries of North, Central, and South Americas, Porto Rico, Canary Islands, &c., were placed under the Masonic government of one Supreme Power, was fully ratified, as appears by a record of a meeting in June, 1832, of the United Supreme Council of Grand Inspectors-General of the 33d degree, for the Western Hemisphere, assembled in its second sitting on the (blank) day of the fourth Masonic month called Tammuz, (June,) 1832.

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"No. 12. Another document shows the exercise of the powers of this United Council, in the appointment of a Minister or Agent, Plenipotentiary—the same Marquis Santangelo, an Italian, whose name has so frequently been mentioned. It is dated in 1832, purporting to be a copy of the original, countersigned by the '*Grand Secretary General of the Holy Empire*.'

"The commission thus announced, empowers the said Santangelo to establish, congregate, superintend, and suspend and dissolve, personally, in the name of the Supreme Council, and under its jurisdiction, subject to its ratification,—'Lodges, Chapters, Councils, Colleges, Grand Councils and Consistories of Freemasonry, within the whole extent of our Territorial jurisdiction, in such States, Republics, Empires or Kingdoms, where no similar regular Bodies have been established.'

" 'And we further invest him with the title and credit of OUR REPRESENTATIVE, *near* all regular and lawfully established Masonic Power, in the Mexican United States, Central and Southern America, &c.'

"In this capacity, the Supreme Council *request* all Masonic Power of their or any other Masonic Rite; and *COMMAND* all Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret, Knights of K-H., and *Masons of all degrees* to acknowledge and receive him, and promise the same respect to those who present themselves at the doors of their sacred Asylums, furnished with like authentic titles.

"In addition to the original documents of the Supreme Council and Grand Consistory, which were examined by the Committee, four Diplomas of high Masonic Degrees, conferred upon two gentlemen, now residents of the city of Boston, by high Masonic Powers in France, the West Indies and Ireland, were submitted, by the consent of those gentlemen, to the inspection of the Committee, and their authenticity satisfactorily established. * * *

"One of these Diplomas gives additional evidence of the exercise of the prerogatives of a Sovereign Independent Government by the Grand Consistory of the United States.

"It is in the French language, written and brilliantly engraved on parchment, with emblems of the double headed eagle, surmounted by a *crown*, a personation of immortality, with crowns, crosses, the sword and the mitre, interspersed. It confers upon the individual before referred to, (a native of Newburyport, in Massachusetts, sea captain, and a Sovereign Prince of the Royal Secret,) all the degrees of Philosophical Masonry, from the degree of 'SOVEREIGN PONTIFF of the nineteenth degree, to that of the most eminent and final degree of the Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret, of the thirty-second degree, inclusive, he having evinced his *submission* and taken his *oath* in conformity with our Statutes, and those of the Sovereign Grand Consistory of the United States of America,' before whom, or some other 'Sovereign Grand Consistory of Princes,' he was required to present himself, in order to cause this degree to be ratified.

"This Diploma is dated at Porto Rico, in the city of Mayaguez, the 5th of July, in the year 1824, and is signed by F. TERREFORTE, who styles himself,

" 'We, Francis Terreforte, member of the Sovereign Chapter of the Royal Secret of the Triple Alliance in the Valley of New York—member of the Sovereign Grand Consistory of the Supreme Chiefs of high Masonry for the United States of America; member of the *Supreme Council* of the Grand Inspectors-General, and REPRESENTATIVE OF SAID GRAND CONSISTORY for

the Island of Porto Rico, Sovereign Grand Inspector-General of the thirty-third degree; also Founder of the Sovereign Chapter of the Royal Secret of Faith, in the Valley of Mayaguez, and member, Founder and Grand Dignitary of the Sovereign Grand Council of the Sublime Princes of the 32d Royal Secret, for the Island of Porto Rico,' who confers this degree, 'in the name, and under the *auspices* of the Most Powerful Sovereign Grand Consistory of the Supreme Chiefs of high Masonry, for the United States of America, their territories and dependencies.'

"A second Diploma, in the French language dated at Marseilles, in France, 1821, confers upon the same individual, by authority of the Sovereign Chapter of Perfect Sincerity, the title of Sovereign Prince of Perfect Freemasonry of Rose Croix. So that this person was at the same time a member of the exalted bodies of Masonry in the United States, the West Indies, and France.

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"A further evidence of the correspondence and diplomatic relations existing between high Masonic Powers in this and in foreign countries, is found in a Masonic document of high authenticity, published in February, 1814, by order of the Grand Consistory of the United States, signed by E. Hicks, J. Schieffelin, and others, now Sovereign Grand Inspectors, &c. In that document it is declared that 'immediately on its installation, the Grand Consistory gave notice to the Supreme Masonic Bodies in *Europe and the West Indies*, to whom it at the same time communicatd copies of the patents under which it was formed. These were followed by the most ample recognition on the part of the *Supreme Council of France*, an act, sufficient in itself, to outweigh the cavils of all imposters.'

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"THE INFLUENCE OF FOREIGNERS, *who are Masons, and of Masonic Bodies, composed of Foreigners, in the United States, deriving their Masonic existence from Foreign Masonic Powers, and in conjunction with American Masons*, appears to the Committee to present matter for grave deliberation, in connection with the domestic policy and foreign diplomatic relations of our Civil Government.

* * * * *

"For instance, *Joseph Cerneau*, a French Mason, while a resident in this country until 1828, united in his person, the offices of Honorary Member of the Grand Orient of France,—Representative of the Grand Orient of France, near the Grand Consistory of the United States,—Sovereign Grand Commander of the Grand Consistory of the United States, and Sovereign Grand Commander, for life, of the Supreme Council of America. He left this country in 1828, with a letter missive from the Grand Consistory, copied on parchment, and sealed in the most ample form, fully accrediting him as possessing the entire confidence of the exalted Masonic bodies in the United States; and it is also declared, in the proceedings of the Grand Consistory, Nov. 10, 1829, that this Illustrious Brother (Cerneau) was the founder of the Most Potent Grand Consistory of the United States, and that

that body entertains a high sense 'of his zeal for the interests of the Order more especially in the exalted and perfect degrees which his zeal, perseverance and ability have led him to establish, and contribute to maintain,' in the United States.

"The Count St. Laurent, another Frenchman, in 1832, was Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of Central and South America, afterwards Assistant Grand Commander for life, of the United Supreme Council of North and South America; carrying with him, on his departure for France, confidential communications to the Supreme Council of France, and to the appointed Representative of the American Council to the French Council.

"Another French Mason, 'the Illustrious Brother D'Aumale,' was at the same time Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of France, and *Representative* and Minister of the Supreme Council of America, to the Grand Orient of France.

* * * * *

"The Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors, exercise all the attributes and *prerogatives* of Sovereignty. They enact laws, and impose oaths, the penalty for a violation of which is death. They maintain all the high diplomatic relations of Independent Sovereign States and Empires. One Supreme head of this Central Power, who holds the office *for life abdicates*, and another *eigns* in his stead, in the language of the documents of the Supreme Council. Thus, we find, that in November, 1827, Grand Commander Cerneau, being about to return to France, his native country, in his Sovereign capacity nominated Elias Hicks, as his successor in that office, and he was appointed accordingly, to hold it for life, being 'duly proclaimed' as Sovereign Grand Commander.

"At the same sitting, the Supreme Council 'conferred upon the Illustrious Brother DeWitt Clinton, the dignity of Honorary *Sovereign* Grand Commander.'

* * * * *

"In another authentic Masonic document, the charter granted by the Grand Consistory of the United States in 1813, establishing a 'Grand Council of the Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret, for the State of Rhode Island,' (signed by Joseph Cerneau, Grand Commander,) it is stated, that a petition from sundry high Masons in Rhode Island, was addressed to the Grand Consistory, '*accompanied* BY AN OATH OF SUBMISSION,' and 'recommended by our Most Illustrious Brother, John A. Shaw, our Deputy General Inspector for the said State,'—thus furnishing evidence that the Grand Consistory and the Supreme Council have, or have had, accredited Ministers or Representatives, residing in the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

"The Consistory, or Grand Council of Sublime Princes, established at Newburyport, in this State, in 1826, must hold the same charter, it is inferred, as that held by the like body in Rhode Island, and which is still in existence there, as appears by the investigation before the Legislature of that State.

* * * * *

"By the charter of the Rhode Island Council, it appears that the Grand Consistory was regularly constituted, by constitutional patents, in 1807. These patents, it is presumed, were derived from France, as is testified by Stephen Deblois, p. 141, of the Rhode Island Investigation.

"Nicholas G. Boss, another Masonic witness, in said Investigation, (p. 132,) testifies, that 'In 1761, the Grand Consistory convened at Paris, when authority was given to Stephen *Morin*, to found and establish the higher degrees in the New World.' 'In 1763,' says Mr. Boss, 'Moses M. Hays arrived in this country, with authority from Morin, to establish them, he being appointed Deputy Grand Inspector-General. In 1780 Hays visited Newport, Rhode Island, and conferred these degrees to the 33d, on several persons who were Master Masons,' among others Moses Seixas, a Jew, afterwards Master of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island. In 1811 the authority to confer the higher degrees of Masonry in Rhode Island, was lost by the death of Moses Seixas, and the Masons of Rhode Island then obtained authority from New York, to establish a Consistory in Newport * * *

"The Consistory in Rhode Island was in existence in 1832, as is testified by a member of it, in the Rhode Island Investigation, p. 144. It has the power, by its patent, of 'initiating Master Masons to all the degrees, grades and Knighthood of Perfection, and of PHILOSOPHICAL MASONRY, up to, and including the 32d degree,' and of establishing Councils, Colleges, &c., in Rhode Island.

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"The Committee will notice but one other document, referring to Masonic prerogative. At one of the sittings of the Supreme Council, in 1828, allusion is made to the efforts of that Body, 'to guard the Masonic Fraternity against fraud, both in its '*Supreme capacity*, and in its *Legislative character*, as a Grand Consistory.' The Supreme Council also claims to have the sole and *absolute* control and direction of all Bodies of Sublime and Perfect Masonry in the United States, their territories and dependencies; and, 'in order that the Fraternity may know that all pretensions to the right of conferring any of the degrees of Perfect and Sublime Masonry, within the United States, by any constituted body or individual Mason, not deriving its or his authority from this Supreme Council, or some of its co-relative Bodies or Agents, is contrary to, and in open violation of the *statutes*, laws and general regulations of Sublime, Exalted and Philosophical Masonry; and, at the same time, that they may know what individuals and Bodies are constitutionally vested with such authority within this jurisdiction, *Resolved*, that the last *Tableau*, containing a list of all the authorized Bodies of Sublime and Perfect Masonry in the United States of America, and of the *duly patented and recognized* REPRESENTATIVES of this Supreme Council, in said United States, their territories and dependencies, be forthwith transmitted, together with a copy of the foregoing proceedings, to the several GRAND LODGES and governing Masonic Bodies, in the United States, for the benefit and security, by

general dissemination, of the individual Brethren within their respective jurisdictions.'

"It also appears, that the Resolutions and Report, adopted by the Grand Consistory in New York, in 1813, were forwarded to some, if not all of the Grand Lodges, and that the Grand Consistory addressed a communication giving notice of its establishment, to the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

"It is a somewhat striking coincidence in the Masonic Government, that St. John's Grand Lodge in Massachusetts, established the first Lodges in New York, and the Supreme Council in New York established the Councils in Massachusetts; so that Massachusetts has given the lower degrees to New York, and New York bestowed the higher upon Massachusetts. The intimate relation between these and all the intermediate Orders is shown by the record of proceedings of the Rose Croix Chapter of Triple Alliance, and the Grand Council of Sublime Princes in New York, in 1819, from which it appears, that on the 4th of June, Chester Griswold, then Grand Master of Masons of the State of Ohio, was admitted to the degrees of Perfect Master, Elect of Nine, G. E. Scottish Knight, Knight of the East, Prince of Jerusalem, Sovereign Prince of Rose Croix, and Prince of the Royal Secret, the 32d degree.

"In another instance, as is shown in the Appendix, (letter G,) in the years 1825, '6, and '7, DeWitt Clinton was at the head of every grade of Masons, from Honorary Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, to Grand Master of a Grand Lodge." * * *

It will be observed that the Committee quoted largely from official documentary evidence, and the writer has simply copied such as referred to the Scottish Rite, without comment, for the reason that all well informed Brethren cannot fail to understand what bodies are meant by the "Sovereign Grand Consistory," and "Supreme Council" of which the Ill.: Bro.: Joseph Cerneau, 33°, was Sovereign Grand Commander, and the Ill.: Bro.: DeWitt Clinton, 33°, Honorary Sovereign Grand Commander.

The Committee, referring to the authenticity of the evidence submitted, said: "These documents, most of which are in manuscript, the Committee have carefully inspected; and from the internal evidence and the facts given in testimony before them, they are entirely satisfied that they are authentic originals, from the archives of the Masonic Bodies, whose proceedings are therein contained."

Quoting from an official document the Committee gave the following: "The Supreme Council for Mexico and New Spain was entirely given up, in 1790, and the Government of the Rite of the HOLY EMPIRE, under its authority devolved upon the Supreme Council for Terra Firma, South America, &c., which since then has ably exercised the power of the Order, over all the Lodges of the ancient dependence of the Supreme Council defunct." In 1832 this Supreme Council for "Terra Firma, South America, Canary Islands, Porto Rico," &c., united with the Supreme Council for the United States of America, their Territories and Dependencies, and the Committee say that the object stated was to unite "the Supreme Council of America, and that of which he (St. Laurent) has been Grand Commander, *ad vitam*, since 1795; by which means the power of the ancient Rite in the New World would be consolidated, and the power and glory of the Supreme Council of the United States, would be propagated in all parts of that vast continent."

From the foregoing testimony it will be observed that the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, for the United States of America, their Territories and Dependencies, Orient of New York, is THE legitimate Supreme Council of this country, and the successor of the oldest Supreme Council known in history at this time, and had "the sole and absolute control and direction of all Bodies of Sublime and Perfect Masonry, in North, Central and South Americas, &c."

To prove that the 33d degree did exist and was worked years earlier than many suppose, the following is quoted from unquestionable authority:

"JEAN BAPTISTE DELAHOGUE, native of Paris, received the 32d and 33d on the 12th December, 1796.

"DOMINIQUE ST. PAUL, native of Martigue in Guienne, received the * * * 32d and 33d on the 12th of December, 1796.

"PIERRE CROZE MAIGNAN, of Marseilles, * * * received the 32d and 33d, 12th December, 1796.

"VICTOR REMY PETIT, native of Paris, — ROBIN, of Paris, JEAN ABRAHAM MARIE, of Geneva, LAURENT GRENIET, of Nurambac, JEAN BAPTISTE AVEILHE, of Mizende, ISAAC HERMAN, JEAN BAPTISTE TOUS-SAINT MOREAU, all received the 32d and 33d on the 12th of December, 1796."

The Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction make the absurd claim of being the "Mother Supreme Council of the World." The reader can easily see that they have no right to any such claim.

This evidence should forever settle all controversy relative to the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in our country.

My Brethren, the effort has been, and is being made to destroy the only legitimate Scottish Rite Power in our country. It looks to the writer as if the honor of the Masonic Fraternity is concerned in this question, and as if every effort should be put forth to sustain the truth. Let us hope, in the interest of peace and harmony, and for the good of the Fraternity, that means may now be found to settle these differences.

Truly and Fraternally yours,

M. W. BAYLISS, 33°,

Sov. Gr. Commander,

Washington, D. C.