

Charlton ^{Ray!} 10th March 1830

my dear friend and bro

I hasten to give you a copy of a note from Bro Holland which came into my hands last evening by Bro ^{Snell} from New Orleans — It is exactly as follows — open not sealed —

Commence here " In the year 1813 the Degrees of Masonry from the 4th to the 32^d degree were established in New Orleans, by a "Grand Consistory" at New York assuming jurisdiction over the United States of America, with power to establish the degrees in the United States on a plan similar to that on which Royal Arch Masonry is regulated — that is — with a head called the "Grand Consistory" at New York and a "Grand Council" with jurisdiction similar to a Grand Royal Arch Chapter in each State.

If the Constituting power was regular therefore the Grand Council above alluded to (over which the undersigned presides) has exclusive jurisdiction over all the Masons professing those degrees in the state of Louisiana — but in the mind of the subscriber two questions arise —

1st — had the Masons (of whom Bro Cerneau was the Chief) the right to assume the regulation of those degrees — on which question depends the regularity and authority of the Grand Council in Louisiana?

2^{dly} — If the Grand Consistory at New York had the power to institute the Council here and invest it with jurisdiction over the Degrees throughout the state of Louisiana at this time the Charter was granted to us — Does that body at New York still exist? and if not, can the Body here constituted by it, continue its functions?

The undersigned confesses candidly that he doubts on all the points, but he is more clearly satisfied in relation to the dissolution of the Consistory at New York — not having been able to obtain any answers from that body to the repeated communications he has made the last four years —

And the answers he has had the enquiries he has made of the individuals whose names figure on the list of persons of whom it was once composed — he has been able to obtain but from one person any answer at all — and he said "I believe our body is as regular as the one at Charleston, but owing to some difficulties that exist, we have not done much business lately, and I would ~~wish~~ advise not to forward any dues for the present.

In our Communications with the

Grand Orient of France we discover in their proceedings of last year that the Grand Council at Charleston and its Branch at New York have laid the subject before them - but they abstain from giving any opinion - I think myself that the Gr Orient committed itself by a premature acknowledgment of the body at New York through the agency of Mr Flackett ^{quiet} some years since - we have a copy of a planche in our archives written by order of the Gr Orient by their Grand Secretary recognizing Mr Cerneau's proceedings as regular -

I feel disposed upon the whole myself from my present view of the subject to recommend to the princes to acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Grand Council at Charleston, if any arrangement could be entered into

We could do this without entering into any question as it relates to original power, on the ground that our constituent has ceased to exist -

The Gen Gr Mr Arch Ch of the U.S.A. at their late meeting acknowledged our grand Chapter and confirmed its jurisdiction over the state of Louisiana

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on condition of our acknowledging subordination to them —

Could not the Grand Council at Charleston at Charleston enter into a similar arrangement with the princes composing the Grand Council here —

The undersigned has put the above ideas together in haste, Brother Snell having called to inform me that in a few minutes, he will ~~come~~ back for Charleston — of course these ideas are not matured — but the undersigned is hereby anxious to terminate the difficulties existing on the subject of regularity and jurisdiction and thinks the above proposal or some similar one would effect the object — He would be glad to hear from the princes at Charleston on the subject.

(Signed) J. J. Holland

New Orleans
February 19 - 1803

and here

Now, my valued friend, if some packet should be sailing to New Orleans from your port — I think you could write him a few friendly words — for I am sure he would listen with attention to your observations on the above. — In haste I remain your sincere and

Obliged friend

W. Holbrook

Received 17th March

To *J. H. Younger Esq*
Merchant
New York

(Ship)
per packet Empress

New Orleans 1830
19th February
J. H. Younger

Small
Box 19th Feb

J. H. Younger

New Orleans 1830
10th March