

THE  
SUPREME COUNCIL, 33°

ON

THE SUSPENSION

OF THE

ANTIQUITY CHAPTER,

Rose Croix.

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The Antiquity Chapter having published its correspondence with the S.:C.: 33° and a statement in defence of the action it has taken in withdrawing from the A.: and A.: Rite, it becomes incumbent on the S.:C.: to expose the causes which led to the suspension of that Chapter, causes about which it has hitherto maintained silence, in the hope that better counsels might prevail, and that members erring and in antagonism to the fundamental laws of the Order might again seek to be received within its "living circle." When, however documents have been published and circulated, containing only part of the truth (and what can be more dangerous than the "*suppressio veri*;" ) it becomes incumbent on the S.:C.: to publish the whole facts of the case.

After a correspondence, extending over two years, a petition was forwarded to the S.: C.:, signed by Thomas Wilton, Geo. C. Mann, Charles Becket, Edmund White, John S. Turner, Francis Brinsdon, and G. John Parfitt, praying that a warrant might be issued, empowering the Antiquity Rose Croix Chapter to hold its meetings in Bath, and nominating Bro. Thomas Wilton, the first M.W.S. thereof.

This petition was granted, and such members of the Chapter as did not belong to the A.: and A.: Rite were affiliated after taking and signing the O.:B.:.

of Allegiance to the S.:C.: Nor was this done till after repeated cautions had been given concerning Brothers, who not being under the jurisdiction of the S.:C.: 33° should persist in working and communicating degrees of the A.: and A.: Rite, and who, by the laws of the Order, were to be excluded from the Antiquity Chapter as well as from all other chapters working under the S.:C.: 33°

It was made known to the S.:C.: during last year (1870),

1st,—That the members of the Antiquity Chapter, in direct violation of the above mentioned O.:B.:, solemnly taken and signed by them, had admitted a Mason not a member of the A.: & A.: Rite, not only to visit the Chapter, but even to take part in the working of the 18th.

2nd,—That the warrant from the S.:C.: not only was not transmitted from the M.:W.:S.: to his successor—which involved the violation of another O.:B.:—but was not exhibited to new members, and was in fact hidden away in the escreteire of Bro. Wilton since he received it from the hands of the S.:C.:”

3rd,—That admission to the Chapter work was refused to a member of the St. Peter's and St. Paul's Chapter, this latter Chapter being in the full possession of all its powers and privileges under the S.:C.: and the Brothers seeking admission not being under any censure, suspension, or other disqualification.

The Chapter further neglected to forward the

statutable returns, and fees to the S.:C.: although written to by the G. Treasurer of the S.:C.: on the 27th December, 1869, and the 19th April, 1870; and when on the 30th April, 1870, returns were sent in, they were found informal as containing the names of brethren who had never been registered, and for whose certificates no application had been made, nor fees paid.

The Chapter also neglected to send notices of its intended meetings to the S.:C.:, as is done by all other Chapters, and as it was particularly directed to do.

These and other irregularities having been brought to the notice of the S.:C.:, it was determined that an official visit should be made by the S.: C.: to the Antiquity Chapter, so that an amicable enquiry might be made as to the correctness or otherwise of the above statements.

In pursuance of this decision, the Chapter was informed on the 1st of November that an official visit would be made to them by the S.: C.: on the 18th of that month; a reply was received, stating that the 18th would be a date inconvenient to some of the members, and requesting that the 24th November might be substituted. On that date, accordingly, four members of the 33°, appointed to represent the S.:C.:, arrived in Bath from different parts of England, and naturally expected to receive intimation from the M.:W.: S.: of the Antiquity Chapter of the time and place appointed for the meeting.

The 23rd and up to 4 p.m. on the 24th November passed over without any intimation being sent to the members of the S.:C.: of any place or time having been appointed for the meeting of the Antiquity Chapter, although the M.:W.:S.: was fully aware that these Brethren were in Bath, and of the the address where they were to be found, and although he was called on personally by one of them, (after previous intimation), as well as reminded of the intended visit by private letters; nor was any explanation subsequently given why such uncourteous treatment was shown, not alone to gentlemen who, at great personal inconvenience and private expense, had come from considerable distances to perform their duty, but also to the Governing Body of the Order that they were deputed to represent.

This contempt of authority being reported at the next special meeting of the S.:C.: and (as above stated) no explanation or apology whatever having in the interim been offered by the Antiquity Chapter. The S.:C.: was reluctantly compelled to suspend the offending Chapter.

This action produced from the Antiquity Chapter a communication, insulting not only to the S.: C.:, but to the Order at large, and containing admissions of irregularities of such a nature as would have necessitated a sentence of suspension, had it not already been pronounced.

This letter was accompanied by the surrender of

the Warrant granted by the S.: C.: to the Chapter of Antiquity, which thereby retired from the Communion of the A.: and A.: Rite into the ranks of irregular Freemasonry.

The S.: C.:, on receipt of this resignation, had no option but to discharge the very unpleasant duty of communicating the fact to all the Chapters under its jurisdiction, and the S.: Cs.: of other countries with which it is in alliance, so that precautions might be taken, both here and abroad, with regard to the seceding Brethren, should they at any time seek admission to any legal and warranted Chapter.

This being done, the S.: C.: had no further steps to take in this much-to-be-lamented affair. The Order being on a legal and acknowledged foundation at home and abroad, its Degrees and Certificates insuring admission for its Members to all regular Chapters in all lands, it has nothing to gain by the adhesion of irregular Chapters, beyond the general advantage of fraternal union. Consequently the S.: C.: considered the affair as ended on the withdrawal of the Antiquity Chapter from the A.: and A.: Rite, and kept silence, till forced, as above mentioned, to take up the pen in defence of the Whole Truth.