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FREEMASONRY IN GERMANY.

The history of Freemasonry in this vast country, which contains an Empire, several Kingdoms, and about twenty Principalities, is in a manner more succinct than that of any other of the States of Europe. I will commence, therefore, by speaking of that city, which of all others in Germany, was the first in which Freemasonry took root, namely: the city of "Hamburg on the Elbe." On the 3rd of December, 1737, the first Masonic lodge in Germany, under the English dispensation, was established in this city. It was named "Absalom Lodge," and was placed under the direction of Bro. Charles Sarez. On the 30th of October, 1740, this lodge was raised by the Grand Lodge of England to the rank of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hamburg and Lower Saxony, having for its Grand Master Bro. Luttman. It was by a deputation of this lodge that Prince Frederick, of Prussia, subsequently Frederick the 2nd, was initiated, in 1738, at Brunswick, a circumstance that has contributed much to the propagation of Masonry in Germany. From Hamburg, Freemasonry passed, in 1738, to Dresden; in 1740, to Berlin; in 1741, to Leipsic; in 1744, to Brunswick; and in 1746, to Hanover. The Provincial Grand Lodge established up to 1795 but five lodges, and in that year these united in founding a hospital for house servants, and subsequently created a fund for the relief of foreign brethren who

might require it. This Grand Lodge had extended its jurisdiction in 1807 over sixteen lodges, all working the English rite, and remaining faithful to its mother lodge, of London. In this respect it shone as a bright example of fidelity, in comparison to other Provincial Grand Lodges, which, although established under like circumstances, and by the same authority, generally took the first favorable opportunity to become independent of the authority that created them. It was not until the year 1811, that the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hamburg decided to assert its independence, and now it directs a Provincial Grand Lodge, and between twenty and thirty operative bodies, all practicing the English rite. I next describe its origin in Prussia:—"The Lodge of the Three Globes," in Berlin, composed of French artists, was constituted on the 23rd of September, 1740. This was the first lodge established at that time. On the 24th of June, 1744, Prince Frederick elevated it to the rank of a Grand Lodge, under the title of "Royal Grand Mother Lodge." He was, as a natural consequence, elected Grand Master, and filled the office as such until 1747, from which date he ceased to take any part in Masonic labors. This mother lodge suffered itself to be, from an early period, invaded by the high degrees of the rite of "Perfection," as also by those of the rite of "Strict Observ-