

Patrons of Masonry.—William, Emperor of Germany, is a Freemason of forty years' standing; also his son the Heir Apparent of the Empire. The father of Victoria, Queen of Great Britain, was a Freemason; also three of her sons, and herself by royal consent, Patron of the Order. Victor Emmanuel, King of Italy, is a Mason, as is also his son Amadeus, the late King of Spain. To them might be added the Kings of Holland and Sweden and a host of princes and the nobility of Europe.

It is known that the Ancient Craft is favored by the Sultan, Abdul Aziz, and that a good proportion of the Pachas and high officials are Members of the Craft. The celebrated Fuad Pacha, long Grand Vizier of Turkey, was a warm advocate of Masonry, and at his death was Deputy Grand Master of Turkey under the English Constitutions. The Sultan, some years since, commanded one of his secretaries "to join the Masons and tell him who they are and what they do." He did so, and reported so favorably of "the high character of the members, the innocency and propriety of their secrets, their devotion to good order and decorum, their abhorrence to plots and conspiracies against the civil powers," etc., that the imperial inquirer let it be known from that time forward that he was "favorable to the Sons of King Solomon (Melek Suleyman) and their work."

A few weeks ago, in the city of Washington, a fellow-craft who had been regularly passed in one of the lodges, anxious for proficiency to enable him to advance, was advised to go to a lodge of instruction. He applied for admission, and by a mistake of the Tyler, was vouched for and passed in, while the lodge was engaged in exemplifying the third degree, and witnessed the entire exemplification before his real masonic rank was discovered. M. W. Bro. C. F. Stansbury, the Grand Master of the district, was immediately sent for, and upon learning the facts, convened the brethren who were present, into a lodge of emergency, and had the third degree conferred forthwith upon the involuntary—two weeks in advance of the time when the degree would have been regularly due. The record of the proceedings of the emergent lodge were certified to the lodge in which the fellow-craft had received the first and second degrees; and the Grand Master authorized that Lodge to receive the fee, and to take the so-made Master Mason as a member, as if he had been regularly received in the lodge. But the lodge, upon ballot, refused to receive him. He is now, in the opinion of the Grand Master, in which we concur, to be recognized as a Master Mason in good standing, but unaffiliated, with the privilege of applying to any lodge for membership.—*National Freemason.*

Design of the Degrees.—The Initiation into the first, or Entered Apprentice's Degree, was made to partake, in a slight proportion, of those trials of physical and moral courage for which the admission into ancient and chiefly Egyptian mysteries were famous. The second, or Fellow Craft's was rendered interesting by those scientific instructions and philosophical lectures which characterized later parts of the mysteries; though both degrees were made to tend to the glory of that God who had given such faculties to them and to the welfare of their fellow creatures. Thus instructed in morals and science, the third, or Master Mason's Degree, led them to that great truth which the sublimest part even of the heathen mysteries, though it seldom succeeded, was intended to teach, and the faithful believer was assured of a future life and immortality beyond the grave. And, whereas the heathens had taught this only by the application of a fable to their purpose, the wisdom of the pious Grand Master of Israelitish Masons took advantage of a real circumstance, which would more forcibly impress the sublime truths he intended to inculcate upon the minds of all Brethren. Such is a brief outline, intelligible I trust, to the members of the Order, of the design of that beautiful system which, then established, has long been the admiration of the world, and has stood the test of ages amid every persecution.—*Archdeacon Mant.*

AFTER a while—a busy brain
Will rest from all its care and pain.

After a while the rush will cease,
And wearied heart find sweet release.

After a while—a vanished face,
An empty seat, a vacant place.

After a while—the man forgot,
A crumbled stone, an unknown spot.

THE agate picked up in a level country, far away from rocks, seems to have no relationship to any geological stratum. Yet the geologist knows that it was once imbedded in a soft rock long since crumbled into dust. So with the numerous masonic customs prevalent in the East; though all traces of masonic organizations have disappeared, the fact of these customs and the appearance of the masonic emblems here and there and the traditional facts of masonry remaining in the memory of the living, all stand as historical evidence of the former existence of the order in the East.