

FREEMASONRY IN ITALY.

In the *Keystone* of March 21st, ult., we published an accurate translation of the interesting speech delivered by Bro. Dr. Giuseppe Colosi before the assembled Lodges of Palermo, under the Grand Orient of Palermo, Italy. By the favor of the same hand (that of Bro. A. Gallico, W. M. of St. James Union Lodge, London, England, to whom we make fraternal acknowledgement) we are now enabled to present our readers with a second address by Bro. Colosi, which has just been printed and circulated among the Craft throughout Italy. We cannot comprehend in free America, the trials and persecutions to which our Italian Brethren have been subjected. Both Priests and Tyrants have invariably treated them as legitimate subjects for venomous persecution; and this must be kept in memory when we read, in reply, the outbursts of their indignation at cruel and unworthy treatment.

The first address was directed to an exhibition of the persecutions of the Fraternity by the "man priest;" the following one treats of those instigated by the "man-soldier," of various climes and ages:

Speech of Bro. Giuseppe Colosi, delivered at the Lodge meeting in October last.

GRAND ORIENT OF PALERMO:

"There is no liberty where a caste, a family, or a man arrogates unto himself dominion over others, by virtue of an alleged "Divine right," by virtue of the privilege derived from birth and wealth. There must be liberty for all and before all!"—*Mazzini on the Duties of Man*, p. 62.

—BRETHREN:—The alleged Divine right although dethroned, still raises its hand in France and Spain, because the Bourbons and their supporters, morally supported by the Vatican, are plotting to sap nations again by their hateful presence. Freemasons, however, in all countries, having received a fresh impulse by the sound principles of our Institutions, are displaying energy in their efforts to prevent a renewal of such ignominious proceedings. Shall we remain passive spectators of the battle? We must not deceive ourselves. The matter is of serious importance to the Latin race, and what does not happen to-day may soon take place; and we should then be placed between two fires, viz: "man priest" and "man-soldier," both in a state of insanity. In my previous speech I proved the iniquity of the former; I only briefly alluded to the latter. I will do so more at length now, in order that you should well bear in mind the importance of the work we have before us, so as to frustrate, even amongst ourselves an attempted monarchical legitimist restoration. The origin of tormentors of the human race goes back to a very ancient period. As soon as families settled down in communities, and these were changed into cities, the more cunning among them were not slow in forcibly seizing that power which hitherto had been granted only to the elders by public suffrage. The learned Greek, taught by history and experience, soon surrendered the names of tyrants to the tormentors of enslaved people. And if in Italy, at no very remote period, the name of king was changed into that of tyrant, the result was that the life, honor and property of the people were placed at their mercy. Humanity loudly demanded a stemming to such black injustice; but who so bold to dare attempt it? Freemasons of 18th century, Voltaire, Condorcet, the French Encyclopædians, and especially Rousseau, by his work, "The Social Compact," dared it, declaring elected government as the only one capable of building up from the ruins of the former systems a state of things in which "*liberty, fraternity, equality*," should be the watchwords of society.

It was at this period that Freemasonry overthrew the shroud of mystery in which dark despotism clothed itself for ages. They dared as much in the 3rd century, when, being dissatisfied with the political condition of things—with social iniquity, spoliation, the superstition and misery of nations,—they demanded and obtained from the despots of those times the exemption from tyrannical laws, and received the name of Freemasons. About the end of the 6th century, our Order, ill brooking the tyrannical coalition of counts, barons and feuds; and being all the more strengthened by the noble intellects and the combined efforts and energy of persons in power, constituted itself into a "Philosophical power," in order to raise to the apex of the social scale the grand humanitarian conception. But if Freemasonry did so much, following the former features, *Buddha, Zoroaster, Appolonius, Hiram, Cristemore, Mochned*, this did not save from the most atrocious persecution. We find in 1425, in England, by the instigation of the Archbishop of Winchester, tutor of the minor Henry IV., that Masonic meetings were forbidden under pain of felony, and of being condemned to pay a heavy fine. In 1502 Freemasonry was suppressed throughout Germany. In 1733 the electors of the Palatinate arrested and imprisoned all the members of the Manheim Lodge. About the same period the police of the Chatelet, in France, compelled a hotel-keeper to pay a heavy fine and to have his house walled up for permitting Masonic assembly. In 1735 the General States of Holland interdicted the Order