

hitherto attained in this country. I need not remind you that the Most Worshipful Grand Master has still another claim upon our loyalty, and our allegiance as Masons. He is descended from an illustrious line of ancestors, many of whose members have been conspicuous at once for their attachment to the Order. I am speaking in hearing of many brethren who knew His Royal Highness' grandfather, the Duke of Kent, who was also a Freemason, and his grand-uncle, the Duke of Sussex, who was Grand Master of England at the time of the union of the two Grand Lodges; and we know the services he rendered to the Order at that time. Brethren, I shall not detain you further, but shall simply propose "That His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales be elected M. W. G. M. of Freemasons of England for the ensuing twelve months." (Cheers.)

Bro. Grey, Master of the Prince of Wales Lodge, of which His Royal Highness is W. M., said, in seconding the motion: "After what has fallen from our Bro. Grady, I feel that further words would be superfluous; I beg, therefore, to second the election of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales." (Applause.)

The motion was put to vote, when it was unanimously carried, amidst the repeated cheering of the whole assembled body.

Sir Albert Woods (Order of the Garter), Grand Director of Ceremonies, then proclaimed the Prince of Wales by his full titles duly elected Grand Master for the year.

Bro. John Hervey, Grand Secretary then announced that: "His Royal Highness had fixed the ceremony of his installation to take place at the Grand Festival, on Wednesday, the 28th of April, at the Royal Albert Hall."

A MASONIC TEMPLE IN THE "ETERNAL CITY."

IN view of the recent occurrence of an extraordinary event in Italy, the year 1875 may safely be pronounced *annus mirabilis* in Masonry. On March 5th ult., a Masonic Temple was formally dedicated, with the most imposing ceremonies of the Craft, in Rome—the "City of the Cæsars," the seat of the Vatican, and His Holiness, the Pope, whose thundered anathemas against Freemasonry now scarcely stir the moral atmosphere of Italy. Under the very shadow of St. Peter's there has arisen a Masonic Temple—dedicated to God, Virtue, and Universal Benevolence. Notable, indeed, is this event, and it has just been celebrated with the greatest *eclat*. Brother Guiseppe Mazzoni, Grand Master, presided, and the dedicatory ceremonies were witnessed by an immense throng of brethren, not only from all parts of Italy, but also from Great Britain, France, Germany, and North and South America. All the leading classes of society were represented—Members of Parliament, and of the liberal professions, artists and literary men; and during the entire proceedings congratulatory telegrams arrived, from all parts of the world. The London *Freemason* informs us that Past Grand Master Bro. Macchi delivered an eloquent oration, and that the reception of the foreign brethren were gracefully acknowledged by Bro. Col. Ramsay. The new Temple is described as a model of simple elegance. We cordially congratulate our Italian brethren upon their great achievement, accomplished, too, under the very eyes of the arch enemy, the Pope, whose waning political fortunes were the signal for the advancement of those twin daughters of Truth untrammelled—Liberty and Freemasonry.

In this connection we will give our readers a brief sketch of the origin of Freemasonry in Italy, and some examples of the chequered fortunes of our brethren there in the past under the tyrannical rule of the Pope and his minions.

Beautiful Florence, on the Arno, appears to have been the mother-city of Masonry in Italy. The first lodge there was opened in 1733, by Bro. Charles Sackville, Duke of Middlesex. Findel tells us that the Fraternity was known under the name of the "Company of the Trowel." The Grand Duke Francis became a Mason, and for a time the Craft prospered. Lodges were established in Milan, Verona, Padua, Venice and Naples. But in 1737 a Ducal edict was pronounced against them. The Lodge in Livorno (Leghorn) numbered among its members not only Protestants and Jews, but Roman Catholics as well. This coming to the ears of Pope Clement XII., in 1738 he issued his famous Bull against the Fraternity, which for a time was more efficient than the Bull against the comet, for the lodges were suppressed, and the prominent brethren seized, brought before the inquisition, and tortured: but without result, for in no instance were any secrets revealed. Some years later, about 1772, the Grand Lodge of England appears to have warranted a Lodge in Venice. King Charles III., of Spain, who ruled Naples, protected the Craft, and even entrusted the education of his heir (Ferdinand IV.) to one of the brethren. From having a Provincial Grand Lodge under the authority of the Grand Lodge of England, they came to have a National Italian Grand Lodge. King Ferdinand IV., at the outset its friend, through