

season is indeed full of Christmas sorrows; no sunshine of joy and happiness can break through the clouds, as year after year she recalls the bitter past. To her, who suffers thus, there is, however, the one Comforter, the one Help, the thrice-blessed I. N. R. I.

Let the Knight Templar, then, remember that although he personally be surrounded by Christmas joys, there are those to whom he is especially bound, suffering in their misery and loneliness, in cold and wretchedness, Christmas sorrows.

FREEMASONRY IN EGYPT.

It has been announced that some day previous to his departure homewards from Egypt, H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught, P. G. S. Warden, attended a meeting of the Grand Lodge of Egypt, and was most cordially received by the brethren, under the presidency of their Worthy and Most Worshipful Grand Master, Bro. Ralph Borg. We are informed also that His Royal Highness has been pleased to accept the honorary rank of a Past Grand Warden of Egypt, and duly and fraternally expressed his thanks for the compliment. That when the fighting was over the Egyptian brethren should seek the opportunity of making acquaintance with our illustrious Craftsman was most natural, and equally so that the latter should reciprocate the feeling. The Masonic associations connected with ancient Egypt are many and great, and Masonically, modern Egypt owes much to her old prestige as one of the earliest homes, if not the cradle, of the Craft. It will, perhaps, not be

out of place if we devote a few lines to sketching out what is known of the state of Freemasonry in these days in the land of the Pharaohs, where forty centuries still look down upon the traveller as he gazes upwards at the stupendous monuments of former Egyptian skill and power, — the Pyramids.

The Grand Lodge of Egypt is of very recent origin, dating no further back, we believe, than the year 1876, when it came into being with Bro. Zola as Grand Master, and Bro. Professor F. F. Oddi as Grand Secretary. His Highness Halim Pasha is honorary Grand Master "ad. vitam;" and His Majesty Kalakaua I., King of the Sandwich Islands, honorary Grand Master. It has in its jurisdiction some twenty-one lodges, including the Grand Master's Lodge, which heads the list without a number; but our information does not enable us to state among what cities these lodges are distributed. No doubt several of them meet in Cairo, which is the headquarters of the Grand Lodge. Among the Grand Lodges with which that of Egypt has established friendly communications are those of Ireland and Scotland; and, as far as we can see, there is no reason why England should not follow their example, especially as we believe the systems of the two Grand Bodies rest substantially on the same basis. Time, probably, will, sooner or later, bring about so desirable a consummation — at all events, we are justified in expressing a hope that it may be so.

The Grand Lodge, however, is not the only representation of modern Masonry in this country. There is a Supreme Council 33°, of the A. and