

Grand Orient the duty of seeking to consolidate and affirm the work of union, of which the true foundation is to be found in the preservation of existing conditions.

The cordial and intimate relations which have been for a long time established between the Grand Orient of Lusitano, United Supreme Council of Portuguese Masonry, and the Supreme Council for the Northern Jurisdiction of the U. S. A., are so much appreciated by us, and so highly considered, that in informing you—as it is our duty—of the creation of the Symbolical Rite in Portugal, we hold the hope that you will unite this rite to the same cordial and intimate relations which already exists between us, for which we send you our thanks. May the Great Architect of the Universe illuminate you.”—E. AMOUREUX, 88°, in the *Hebrew Leader*.

A CURIOUS LETTER.

The following letter addressed by a leading English infidel to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, was sent us for publication by an influential member of the Craft, not because he sympathized with the sentiments it contains, but for the many lessons every-day, unthinking Masons may draw from it. We comply with the request in the same spirit, but wish it distinctly understood we agree with the writer in but very little:—

DEAR BRO.:—I do not ask you to pardon this, to the profane, perhaps an apparently too familiar style of address, although I do pray pardon if I have unintentionally omitted many of your numerous titles in the formal superscription to this letter. I have never written before to a prince, and may lack good manners in thus indicting; but to my brother Masons I have often written, and know they love best a plain, fraternal greeting, if the purpose of the epistle be honest.

You have voluntarily on your part and unsought on my side, commenced by accepting me as a brother, and you have cemented this fraternity by specially swearing to protect me on appeal in my hour of danger; and though history teaches me that sworn promises are less well kept than steadfast, manly pledges, and that Princes' oaths are specially rotten reeds to lean upon, yet in the warmth of newly created brother, I am inclined to believe you brother—for we are brethren, you and I—not brothers perhaps as we should be of the same common humanity—for in this land I know that princes are no fair mates for those who are pauper born; but we are brothers by your own choice, members of the same fraternity by your own joining; men self-associated in the same grand Masonic brotherhood, and it is for that reason I write you this letter. You, though now a Past Grand Master, are but recently a free and accepted Master Mason, and probably yet know but little of the grand traditions of the mighty organization whose temple doors have opened to your appeal. My knowledge of the mystic branch, gained amongst the Republicans of all nations, is of some years' older date. You are now, as a Freemason, excommunicated by the Pope—so am I. It is fair to hope that the curse of the Church of Rome may have a purifying and chastening effect on your future life, at least as efficacious as the blessing of the Church of England has had on your past career. You have entered into that illustrious fraternity which has numbered in its ranks Swedenborg, Voltaire, and Garibaldi. These are the three who personify grand Idealism and Poetic Madness; Wit and Genius, and true Humanity; manly Energy, sterling Honesty, and hearty Republicanism. My sponsor was Simon Bernard—yours, I hear, was the King of Sweden.

In writing, dear brother, I do not address you as a Prince of Wales, for some of our Princes of Wales have been drunken, riotous spendthrifts.