

From the surface to the lowest center—to the highest heavens; from east to west, between north and south, our Symbolic Lodge extends, and within its sacred precincts one universal language greets the sense. Since the wrath of the All-Mighty shattered into ruin the lofty pile of Babel, and confounded there the one language of all the earth, Freemasonry alone, of every human institution, has been permitted, by His providence to mitigate the evil of this catastrophe. The mysterious sign, exempt from Babel's mighty curse, is seen and recognized throughout the world.

These are its physical and individual benefits; its moral influence upon our race has been, and still is, of a most salutary and extensive character. The ranks of the fraternity once comprised the wise and the powerful among the ancient nations of the earth. From our lodges went forth the skill that could heal the sick, bind up the wounded, and cause the blind to see and the lame to walk, so far as human science could accomplish those great objects; from our lodges the great law-givers of mankind drew their lessons of wisdom and experience, whose appropriate precepts still exert their sway, even amid the enlightened of the nineteenth century; from our lodges the great conquerors of the earth derived that civilization whose blessings they were destined, in the pursuit of military glory, to spread abroad throughout a benighted world. Menes, Sethos and Ramses, the records of whose power and dominion are found among the gigantic monuments of a primeval age; the might Assyrian whose existence is alone conjectured from the magnificent memorials that record his sway and indicate his ruthless conquests (erected from the prouder ruins of an older people); the Persian and the Macedonian had alike received the mystic word and seen the triple union blade. The Masonic incident recorded in the life of Alexander the Great is too striking for us to omit. When irritated at the fraternal aid afforded by the Jews to the inhabitants of Tyre, which he had besieged, and the refusal of the Jewish ruler, on account of his oath to Darius, to send auxiliaries, he led his vindictive armies towards Jerusalem, resolved to devastate the country, overthrow and plunder the city, he was met in his obstructed march by Jaddua, the High Priest, clad in his official robes; and history says, the haughty conqueror forgot his wrath, knelt before the minister of Jehovah, received his blessing, and turned his disappointed troops to other scenes of conquest and dominion. The reason assigned by the humbled conqueror for this unwonted clemency is wonderfully significant, as related by Flavius Josephus: "That Jupiter Ammon, in a dream, had warned him to avoid a person he would meet, clothed like a High Priest, and he knelt not to the man, but to the name he bore inscribed upon his miter."

Where, but in that branch of Freemasonry, now known as the "Royal Arch," could he have acquired the knowledge intimated in this reply? It was peculiar to the Jewish people alone that the chief functionary of their religious worship wore upon his golden frontlet the mystic name of Jehovah; and the greater singularity is, that the sacred inscription was so arranged that this ineffable name was *not exposed to view*. The Macedonian king must have drawn his veneration for the true God and his knowledge of the accessories devoted to His worship for the same common source with the Hebrew prophet. No other hypothesis will account for this extraordinary fact of history.—*M. W. Bro. John W. Simon.*

FREEMASONRY IN THE UNITED STATES.

[By Clifford P. Mac Calla, E. T., Editor of "*The Keystone*," Philadelphia.]

THE United States of America probably furnish a more striking example of the rapid development of Freemasonry than is afforded by that of any other nation in the world; and there is reason for the belief that the growth of true Masonic spirit has kept pace with the growth of numbers. The body of their membership makes itself felt in their abounding charities, which assume such varied and inconspicuous forms, that the general public, and even many of the Fraternity, have little knowledge of their extent or amount.

The membership includes, individually, there as elsewhere the world over, the more prominent men in all the professions and leading avocations in life—all of whom are proud to be connected with the Ancient Craft, which has included potentates, statesmen, scholars and soldiers among its brethren.

I propose to give, in the present brief article, a hurried, and yet accurate, account of the origin, progress, and present position, of Freemasonry in the United States of America. Tradition and imagination will be carefully disregarded, and facts only will be cited. The time has gone by when intelligent craftsmen will receive any statement as true, merely because it flatters their pride. The truth has come to be considered the highest praise.

The city of Boston, Massachusetts is the mother of Masonry in America. Exactly at what date the earliest lodge was established there, is not known, just as it is not positively known when the first lodge was established in Philadelphia. The earliest