

present Emperor William for authorizing the Prince to join the Fraternity and explained the significance of its work. A present was given him for his bride, of three pairs of gloves and three roses. The prince himself said, in his first Masonic address :—" I have heard such wise and good counsels, and have been received with such a hearty welcome, that it is a pleasure to give thanks for my reception. My noble predecessors, Emperor William the First and Emperor Frederick the Third, were earnest members of this ancient Fraternity. I trust and hope that I, too, shall emulate their example, and I will do all in my power to forward the lofty aims of this great body." The participation of the royal house of Prussia and Germany in the Masonic Craft is one of its best traditions, for it gives it a share in the wonderful history of the nation, and secures for it the respect, confidence and esteem of a people that see in their Emperors and princes true rulers of men, and worthy to be their leaders.

#### "IT RAINS."

In the earlier days of Masonry, if an uninitiated person was found curious enough to listen or in any way attempt to procure a knowledge of the peculiar secrets of the Craft, he was called an "Eavesdropper," from the punishment that was ordered to be meted out to him. He was taken out in the rain and placed under the droppings of a waterspout, the water trickling in at his collar and coming out at his shoes. In the old lectures of 1830, occur the following questions and answers :

Q.—Where stands the Junior Entered Apprentice ? A.—In the North.

Q.—What is his business ? A.—To keep off all cowans and eavesdroppers.

Q.—If a cowan (or listener) is caught how is he punished ? A.—To be placed under the eaves of the houses (in rainy weather) till the water runs in at his shoulders and out at his shoes.

Thus when one was found listening the Junior Entered Apprentice cried

out, "It rains!" which was a signal for all labor to cease until the intruder was removed. This, doubtless, is allusion to the ancient usages of operative Masons and builders. The lodge or rough board construction was always built on the southerly side of the church or edifice to be erected. There were no windows in its northern side and an opportunity was thus afforded for prying cowans to peer through the interstices between the planks on that side. In the north was therefore the place of the Junior Entered Apprentices, who were charged with the duty of keeping off cowans and eavesdroppers. The French put him under a "gutter, or pump or fountain until he was soaked from head to foot."

#### THE EAST.

We have been asked to explain what is meant by the word "East" as Masonically employed, and whether the Master of a lodge as such may occupy a seat in any portion of a lodge room other than that which is literally East.

According to the philosophy of the ancient Egyptians, the sun was the great fecundator (begetter) of Nature. This power was by them ascribed to the sun after they had observed that the light and heat of the sun were necessary to the life and propagation of both vegetable and animal life, and as the sun appeared to rise in the East, and was all-powerful in nature, the East subsequently became known as the place of potency (power). Then the sun, or the East, symbolically and hence Masonically, is the place of power and control as the head is the place of power and control over the body. Hence the East is Masonically used to designate the head, headquarters, or controlling power or place of Masonic bodies; therefore we say, "the grand East at Boston," at New York, at Washington, etc., wherever the general office or general place of convening may be fixed for a Supreme Council or governing body of Masons. Therefore the Master of the lodge, being absolute