

that representation and taxation shall go hand in hand, and that local communities shall be ruled by those whose public services, worth, and character, have caused them to be selected by their fellow-citizens for distinction, honor and power. It is natural, therefore, that Freemasonry should in these, the days of its great prosperity, find a congenial home in the powerful city, within whose walls it and its principles were cherished, even in times when the outer world looked coldly on it. This Great City Lodge recalls by its title those far-off days when our brother, Elias Ashmole, the antiquary, had to travel some hundreds of miles to the city, as the only place where he could see an initiation, to other days when Wren was Deputy Grand Master of England, and erected the noble city cathedral which forms his monument, to days when the civil rights and religious liberties of the English people were assailed by the Popish monarch James, and when the only two Freemason's lodges in England, which, according to Preston, worth working, were presided over, one at St. Paul's by Christopher Wren, and the other at St. Thomas' Hospital by Sir Robert Clayton, the then Lord Mayor of London. After the first general assembly of English Masons, in 1717, it was in the city where the Duke of Montagu was installed Grand Master, the ceremony taking place in Stationers' Hall. Before the Freemasons had acquired the property they possess now the great city companies were always ready to show their sympathy with the Craft by lending it their halls. In 1723 the Duke of Buccleuch was installed Grand Master in the hall of the Merchant Tailors' Company, in the presence of 400 Masons; and in 1731 Lord Lovel, afterwards Earl of Leicester, succeeded the Duke of Norfolk as Grand Master, and was installed in the hall of the Mercers' Company; and it would be easy to multiply examples. This Great City Lodge represents, therefore, by the circumstance of the present Lord Mayor of London being one of its founders, and its striking numerical success, the close union which has long subsisted between the City of London and Freemasonry. And if I may turn for a moment to another memorable city, I will say that the most significant and the most encouraging spectacle the Masonic world has seen for many a century is the peaceful establishment of a Masonic Temple within the walls of ancient Rome. Liberty of conscience, natural equality, and mutual dependence, the fatherhood of God, and the brotherhood of man, being the broad watchwords of Freemasonry, the capital of England might well send Masonic greetings to those brethren who, after years of persecution, have established themselves under the beneficent protection of Italian unity to proclaim their principles in spite of opposition, and in fact of the whole world. For it is a good test of the government of a country to mark whether Freemasonry be fostered or proscribed. Spiritual tyranny and civil oppression dread light; and wherever it is dangerous to admit yourself to be a Mason, wherever the Craft is denounced and punished, the historian need not look far for evidence of an unconstitutional government and an enslaved people. In Italy, as in England, members of the ruling dynasty now give their active personal support to Freemasonry; and we shall, I trust, learn in due course, of meetings such as this, where the chief civic dignitaries of Rome will meet their brethren under the banner of a great city lodge. In London we have Freemasons numerously represented in the city guilds, in the Common Council, on the aldermanic bench, and among the high officers of the corporation. The magnificent public buildings with which the city authorities have adorned their metropolis during the last few years, edifices combining the utmost architectural beauty with the greatest public usefulness, have been designed by and erected under the superintendence of a popular member of our fraternity, Bro. Horace Jones, the City Architect. The duties of the Town Clerk of the city are discharged by no less a person than the President of our Board of General Purposes, Brother Monckton; and, culminating honor of all, in the year when the future King of England will be installed Grand Master, under circumstances of pomp and splendor such as the Craft has not seen since the days of Solomon, we have an experienced Past Master filling the high position of Lord Mayor of London, able by his Masonic rank to witness the greatest Masonic pageant the centuries have seen.

THE LODGE.

MANY persons object to Masonry on the ground that it levels all distinctions, and consequently teaches communistic principles, which tend to disorganize society and reduce all to the same level in life; the rich with the poor, and the learned and intelligent with the unlettered. Of course, such reasoning is false altogether, since we only teach the equality of man as seen by his Creator, and Freemasonry makes, although one of its dogmas is the *Level* of all, the same distinctions in its organization that exists in the different departments of social life.

The Worshipful Master sits in the East to rule and govern the Lodge. And his