

of rebuilding the House of the LORD in which they were permitted to engage by our late Sovereign lord, Cyrus the King. They having caused that great work to cease by force and power, I have now come up to humbly beseech your Majesty, that from the height and strength of your great power, and the multitude of your mercies, you will extend your royal favor to me, and be pleased to restore me to your former confidence, and grant me service among the servants of your household.

S. M.—Zerubbabel, I recollect with satisfaction our former intimacy and friendship. I have often heard of your fame as a wise and accomplished Freemason; and having a profound respect for that ancient and honorable institution, and a sincere desire to become a member thereof, I will at once grant your request, on condition that you reveal to me the secrets of Freemasonry.

M. OF I.—Sovereign Master, when our Most Excellent Grand Master, Solomon, King of Israel, governed the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, he taught that Truth was a divine attribute, and the foundation of every virtue. To be good men and true is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry. My engagements are sacred and inviolable. I can not reveal our secrets; and if I can obtain your Majesty's favor only at the sacrifice of my integrity, I humbly beg to decline it, and will cheerfully submit to an honorable exile.

S. M.—Zerubbabel, your virtue and integrity are truly commendable, and your fidelity to your engagements worthy of imitation. From this moment you are free. My guards will divest you of those chains and that garb of slavery, and clothe you in suitable habiliments to attend a banquet, to which I have invited the Princes