

they were all concerned in which his Royal Highness had not also shown a sympathy and interest, and he had further discharged all the duties which befitted his high position with much heartiness, thoroughness, and invariable good taste. (Cheers). Within the past few weeks the name of the Prince of Wales had come before them, perhaps, in a somewhat new character. He did not imagine that among this audience there were more than a few members of the great fraternity of Freemasons, to which he had the honor to belong. (Cheers). But he saw by his side one most distinguished member of the Craft, Bro. W. Beach, M. P., the Grand Master of Hampshire. (Cheers). And he did not doubt but that there were other Masons present. When by a most unfortunate, and to him (Lord Carnarvon) a most astonishing secession from our Church, the office of Grand Master of the English Freemasons became vacant, the Prince of Wales, acceding to the earnest request of the members of the Craft, stepped forward and consented to fill the high office that could not by the Constitution of the Order be held by a Roman Catholic. It was a cause for much satisfaction to the brethren of the Order to find his Royal Highness at the head of the English Freemasons. (Cheers.)

MASONIC EXPRESSIONS IN SHAKESPEARE.

It is not necessary to argue that Shakespeare was a Mason because he uses many expressions now found in the Masonic lectures, any more than it is necessary to claim that Amos was a Mason because we now use a part of chapter vii. of his prophecy in conferring the Fellow Craft's degree. It is impossible that the "universal writer" of Stratford-on-Avon could overlook such symbolism and "chambers of imagery" as Freemasonry abounds with. If ever he saw a Masonic procession; if ever he was inside of a Mason's hall; if ever he conversed with a well-instructed Mason, he must have got at least a hint, which, in such a teeming brain as his, would have been the parent of a thousand images.

In reading his quarto Shakespeare, the writer has found it profitable to mark those passages which, could it be proved that the dramatist was a Freemason, would naturally be accredited to that source. A few are appended:

"I have not kept my square, but that to come,
Shall all be done by the rule."

—*Ant. and Cleo.*, ii. 7.

How well that is expressed! The Brother, remembering his reception as a Fellow Craft, his position in the N. E. corner, and the many other applications of the Square to his mind or person is wrung at heart with the feeling that he "had not kept the Square," that is, within its influence, or the rectitude it symbolizes.

"I met a currier, once mine ancient friend,
Whom, though in general part we were opposed,
Yet our old love made a particular force,
And made us speak like friends."—*Timon*, v. 3.

"To teach me how
To name the bigger light, and how the less,
That burn by day and night."—*Tempest*.

"My gracious lord, that which I would discover,
The law of friendship bids me to conceal."—*Two Gentlemen*, iii. 1.

"A thousand oaths
Warrant me welcome to my Proteus;
His words are bonds, his oaths are oracles;
His love sincere, his thoughts immaculate;
His tears, pure messengers sent from his heart;
His heart as far from fraud as heaven from earth."—*Ibid.*

"Come not to me again but say to Athens,
Timon had made his everlasting mansion
Upon the beached verge of the salt flood,
Whom, once a day with his embosomed froth
The turbulent surge shall cover; thither come,
And let my grave stone be your oracle."—*Timon*.

In the *Merchant of Venice*, Antonio represents the generous Mason, heart-bent upon relieving a distressed brother.

"I pray you, good Bassanio, let me know it,
And if it stand as you yourself still do,
Within the eye of honor, be assured
My purse, my person, my extremest means,
Lie all unlocked to your occasions."

—*Brooklyn Review*.