

The Duke of Sussex.

The Duke of Sussex was the sixth son of GEORGE THE THIRD, King of England.

He was initiated into Masonry at Berlin in 1798, in the 26th year of his age, and filled the honored offices of Junior and Senior Wardens and Worshipful Master.

In 1812, he was appointed Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, and in the succeeding year was elected to the high office of Grand Master, which he held with great dignity for over thirty years.

His zeal in the cause of Freemasonry was unbounded. His skill in acquiring a knowledge of the Art was only equalled by his ability in illustrating its noble teachings.

The principles of Freemasonry seemed engrafted in his nature, and nothing could make him swerve from a full living life of what pertains to the true Craftsman. He says, "When the profane, who do not know our mysteries, are carried away by prejudice, and do not acknowledge the value of our Society, let them, by our conduct, learn that a good Mason is a good moral man, and as such will not trifle with his obligations."

On all occasions, when opportunity offered, he was ever ready to testify to its virtues, thus: "Masonry is one of the most sublime and perfect institutions that ever was formed for the advancement of happiness and the general good of mankind, creating in all its varieties universal benevolence and brotherly love. It holds out allurements so captivating, as to inspire the brotherhood with emulation to deeds of glory, such as must command, throughout the world, veneration and applause; and such as must entitle those who perform them to dignity and respect. It teaches us those useful, wise, and instructive doctrines, upon which alone true happiness is founded; and, at the same time affords those easy paths by

which we attain the rewards of virtue; it teaches us the duty we owe to our neighbor, *never to injure him in any one situation*, but to conduct ourselves with justice and impartiality; it bids us not to divulge the mystery to the public; and it orders us to be true to our trust, and above all meanness and dissimulation, and in all our vocations to perform, religiously, that which we ought to do."

He was affable, free, unaffected, always ready to meet a brother. He was never too proud to learn. His desire was to be at the footstool of knowledge, while his bearing was kindly and dignified. We find him thus extolling the influence of Freemasonry: "When I first determined to link myself with this noble institution, it was a matter of very serious consideration with me; and I can assure the Brethren, that it was at a period when, at least, I had the power of well considering the matter, for it was not in the boyish days of my youth, but at the mature age of twenty-five or twenty-six. I did not take it up as a light and trivial matter, but as a grave and serious concern of my life. I worked my way diligently, passing through all the different offices of Junior and Senior Warden, Master of a Lodge, then Deputy Grand Master, until I finally closed it by the proud station which I have the honor to hold. Therefore, having studied it, having reflected upon it, I know the value of the institution; and I may venture to say that, in all my transactions through life, the rules and principles laid down and prescribed by our ORDER, have been, to the best of my faculties, strictly followed. And if I have been of any use to society at large, it must be attributed, in a great degree, to the impetus derived from Masonry."

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