

plified in England even the bitterest opponents of our Society have been compelled to admit that we are loyal to the government under which we live, and that our professions of faith are as free from any taint of irreligion as they are unbiased by any pretence for this or that particular form of polity.

In these circumstances, and with this knowledge to guide them, people will recognize the sincerity as well as the value of last Wednesday's demonstration. But there are also personal reasons which, no doubt, contributed to intensify the feeling displayed. The Queen is the patron of the Craft, and a liberal supporter of our institutions. Moreover, she is a member of a family which during the last 145 years has taken a more or less conspicuous part in upholding, and giving effect to, the principles of the great Masonic Brotherhood. In 1737 Frederick, Prince of Wales, son of George II., and father of George III., was initiated at an occasional lodge at Kew, and to him the second edition of Anderson's Constitution, published the year following, was dedicated. He died, however, in 1751, without taking any prominent part in the doings of the Fraternity. In 1766 two of his brothers, the Dukes of York and Gloucester, were initiated, and yet a third brother, namely, Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, in 1767. The last mentioned was installed Grand Master in 1782, in succession to the Duke of Manchester, and held office till his death, eight years later. In 1790 George, Prince of Wales, son of George III.—who, with his brother, Duke of York, had been initiated in 1788—was elected Grand Master, and remained such till 1813, when feeling it necessary as Prince Regent to resign office, his place was taken by the Duke of Sussex, who was annually re-elected till his death in 1843. Thus, for sixty one years consecutively, the Craft had for its chief ruler a Prince of the blood royal, while it should be further

mentioned that of the other sons of George III., the Dukes of York, Clarence (afterwards William IV., and Grand Patron in succession to George IV.), Kent (father of our beloved Queen), and Cumberland (afterwards King and Grand Master of Hanover), were members of the Craft, the Duke of Kent, with his brother of Sussex, taking a leading part in re-uniting the two bodies of so-called "Ancients" and "Moderns," into which, during the latter half of last century, and the earlier years of this century, the Craft was divided. As three of the Queen's sons are Craftsmen, and as we believe we are correct in stating that the late George V. of Hanover was also a Mason, it follows that the Royal family of Great Britain has been actively connected with our Society during its last five generations, or, as we have noted already, for a period of 145 years. Here, then, are reasons enough—if none other existed, as we have shown they do exist—why English Freemasons should take a direct and enduring interest in all that concerns the well-being of the gracious Sovereign who guides the destinies of the British Empire. Masonic principles bid us be loyal to her government, while the love and respect we entertain for her and her family go a considerable way towards strengthening and confirming those principles. In short, our loyalty springs, in the first instance, from a strict sense of duty, and in the next, from our love and respect for the dynasty.

Many of our readers will doubtless feel inclined to say that, having already again and again demonstrated our proposition that English Freemasons are from necessity and inclination a loyal body of British subjects, it is unnecessary to prolong our remarks. Yet we think it will be considered at least excusable if we add a few words as to the magnitude of the debt we owe to our Royal brethren. To go no further back than the year 1875, when our present