

which this village is embosomed than in listening to any further remarks of mine, I shall conclude by thanking you for your attendance here to-day, and the builders of this edifice for the excellence of their arrangements.

COLORED LODGES.

At the Congress of the "Union of Grand Masters," held at Darmstadt, in Germany, in April last, it was decided to recommend to the German Grand Lodges the recognition of the Colored Lodges of the United States. This is only a preliminary step, as the action of the Congress is not valid until it has been approved by the various Grand Lodges represented by it, to whom its decisions are referred as propositions merely.

It is, however, to be feared that the action of the German Grand Lodges will be in conformity with the recommendation of the Congress of Grand Masters.

It is not surprising that the Masons of Germany, separated from their brethren of America by a distance of many thousand miles, speaking another language, enjoying only an interrupted communication, and differing materially from us on the law and practice of Grand Lodge jurisdiction, should altogether misunderstand this question of colored Lodges as it presents itself in the United States. But it is to be regretted that the usual industry and accuracy of investigation, which on other topics of literature, has always been characteristic of the Teutonic mind, should not have been applied to the resolution of this problem.

Before adopting any further measures in reference to a recognition of the Colored Lodges—measures which may very seriously impair the harmony now existing between the Masonic powers of the two countries—the German Masons should correctly understand what is the status and the pretensions in this country of those who are called "Colored Masons." We commend to their attention the following paragraph taken from the *New York Graphic*, a secular paper, which, however, gives to the German Masons precisely the information on this subject which they need and which they evidently do not possess:

"The Colored Freemasons yesterday (June 2,) held the annual meeting of their Grand Lodge in this city. The public usually mistakes the attitude of the Freemasons towards the Colored Lodges. The latter do not recognize the authority of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, and hence are a schismatic body with which loyal Masons are forbidden to hold intercourse. That these schismatic bodies happen to be composed of colored men has nothing whatever to do with the refusal of the Regular Masons to recognize them, and they would be treated in precisely the same way were they composed of white men. Unless the Colored Masons will submit to the authority of the Grand Lodge they must necessarily be treated as rebels. This is universal Masonic law, and it is absurd to expect the Grand Lodge and its subordinates to ignore it."

The most learned Masonic jurist could not have stated the argument more correctly. There is no question of race or color implicated. If these men had been the whitest specimens of the Aryan race that ever came from the Caucasus, their position would be exactly the same. They are men practising the rites of Freemasonry without legal authority—opening and holding lodges without charters or warrants of constitution emanating from a recognized Grand Lodge. And although in this free country such things may be done without a violation of the municipal law, in no country where Masonry exists can they be done without a violation of Masonic law.

If the German Grand Lodges insist on the recognition of schismatic and clandestine lodges, they will be inflicting a blow not on the independence and sovereignty of the American Grand Lodges alone, but on the purity and integrity of Masonic discipline.

Such a blow, it need not be said, will be vigorously resisted in the United States, and deplorable as may be the results of such resistance, it cannot be avoided if we would preserve the legal principles of the organization of Masonry in this country.—*Voice of Masonry*.

THE ORIGIN OF FREEMASONRY, AS TRACED BY ITS TWO HISTORIC SCHOOLS.

BY BRO. ALBERT G. MACKEY.

THE question of the origin of Freemasonry as a mystical association has for more than a century and a half attracted the attention of many scholars of Britain, Germany, France and America, and a body of treatises and essays on the subject has been published, the extent of which would surprise any one not familiar with Masonic literature.