

ance." In 1778, desiring to organize a lodge whose membership would be composed entirely of the nobility, it requested permission to do so from the King, Frederick the 2nd, but was refused. Such an institution could no better carry out the objects of Masonry than those which were charged with the propagation of its doctrines.

Although, like Hamburg, some parts of Germany had received Masonry direct from England, and the lodges thus constituted worked the English rite, others had received it by the intermediation of France, the institution soon extended in a most extraordinary manner. The lodges there finding themselves composed in great part of the nobility, and men devoted to art and science, having a weakness for the French language, many of them conducted their labors in that language, and for the most part even took French names. This tendency favored the introduction into the German lodges of the high degrees, which the officers of the army of "Broglie" had imported from France; and it is from this period the introduction of the Templar system may be dated. It was not until after the Congress of Wilhelmsbad, a small mineral bath near Hanau, that these disorders ceased. The discussions which took place in that assembly, broke the chains of the Templar hierarchy, believed to be so firmly riveted by the Jesuits, and relieved the fraternity in all Germany from their drunken enthusiasm for the systems of high degrees.

In no country had the Templar system been extended so generally as in Germany; nearly all the lodges had adopted it, under the belief that its object was the re establishment of the Ancient Order of Knights Templar. The most elevated classes of society, and people the most honorable, among whom were the greater portion of the nobility, became its partizans, notwithstanding the doubts which were thrown out of the

sincerity of the assertions of its chief officials, twenty-six princes of Germany had been initiated into those degrees, and thus became promoters, more or less zealous, while many of them took position at the head of the Templar Order in their respective States.

Since Frederick the Great, all his successors, the present old "Kaiser" and Crown Prince have been Freemasons, or have declared themselves in favor, and the protectors of Freemasonry. Frederick William, the 3rd, who had also been initiated, confirmed and recognized from the throne, in 1798, the three Grand Lodges in Berlin. At the second Congress of Vienna, in 1833, when Austria and Bavaria demanded, in terms not in any wise equivocal, the extermination of the society of Freemasons, the King declared "that they were, and always should be, in his kingdom, under his protection," which should ever be remembered in the mind of every loyal brother of the craft; and by his warm defence of the institution, he prevented the other powers represented at this Congress, from exhibiting any leaning towards the project of extermination advanced by the two powers just named.

The three Prussian Grand Lodges located at Berlin, have each founded humanitarian establishments for the benefit of Freemasons and their families.

CALLED OFF FROM LABOR.

We are at the close of the annual period of labor, and about to enter on the succeeding season of refreshment. Ten months of continuous work in the craft, prepares the brethren for the enjoyment of one or two months of rest. The sweltering nights of July and August may be spent in more airy quarters, than those a Masonic lodge or chapter affords, and to the majority of Freemasons, therefore, the announcement of one or two