

"M. L. Henderson, E. C., and Sir Knights of Eureka Commandery No. 12.

"I enclose you a cheque for one hundred dollars, the amount so kindly furnished by you to my wife, who arrived in safety yesterday. My gratitude to you for your timely sympathy and care is only equalled by her own, who says that her experience in your city has added a new chapter to her reasons for loving Masonry. Should any of you visit Boston, do not fail to call upon us, that we may return our thanks in person, and invite you to the hospitalities of our home."—*Our Home Companion*.

## A MASONIC STORY OF FREDERICK II.

Frederick the Second, surnamed the Great, King of Prussia, born January 12, 1712, died August 17, 1786. He was initiated into Freemasonry while he was yet only Prince Royal, at a special Lodge held for that purpose at Brunswick, on the night of the 14th to 15th of August, 1738. On his return to Berlin he secretly favored the raising of the Lodge to which he gave the name of the "Three Globes;" but during his father's life he dared not avow himself to be a Freemason, but on ascending the throne he publicly declared himself so to be. Frederick had learned to understand the aim of Masonry, and, considering the Order in its true point, he looked upon it as an institution entirely devoted to the welfare of humanity, and its task to cause to germinate all the good and noble sentiments of man, as a school of the human heart, a mediator between the law and virtue, as a teacher of philanthropy, benevolence, honesty, and of all the social virtues. Frederick was fully acquainted with the code of laws and those old prescriptions of the purest morality which have been perpetuated until this day, and those fundamental principles propagated and professed in all Masonic re-unions established over the face of the globe.

He then considered the Masonic Order, inasmuch as it remained *faithful* to its original mission, as a most holy institution, in which, under the symbolic envelope, he had discovered the profound duty of man toward his neighbor and toward his God. He founded, in the first year of his reign, a private Lodge, in which he held the mallet as Worshipful Master. This Lodge was composed of his most intimate friends, whom he knew, or supposed to be, men of loyalty and morality. But all those who may happen to be called are not elected, and man, who carries within him the germs of good and evil, remains fragile in whatever position chance may have placed him—no one is exempt from weakness. Frederick also had to go through that sorrowful experience. In the narrow circle of his Lodge (which was composed of no more than twenty-seven members), was found a man who was traitor to his king, his country and the Order, and toward whom Frederick, using superhuman generosity, conducted himself as a king and as a chosen one. We translate from the German Masonic journal *Erwinia*:

The great king, after conquering Silesia, had to take measures so as to preserve his conquest and cover his other provinces. He had, therefore, to restore his ancient strong places, and also raise new ones. The king confided the execution of his plans to General Wallrave, one of his most learned engineers. The fortress of Neise, above all, was put in a state of defence more complete by the construction of several forts and mines which surrounded the city to a quarter of a league in distance. It was a frontier place, destined to defend Prussia against Austria. General Wallrave, the favorite of the king, and member of this Lodge presided over by Frederick, allowing himself to be seduced by *gold*, had entered into a correspondence with Prince de Kaunitz, at Vienna, to sell to Austria for so much money the plan of the fortress, with the indication of the mines, and of their communication with the works of the place; but the negotiations not having been conducted with sufficient prudence, the Director General of the posts had some suspicions which he communicated to the king. The General was watched, and the first letter that he wished to send was intercepted and carried to King Frederick, who broke it open and in this way had the manifest proof of the crime of Wallrave. In this wise he found himself betrayed by his favorite, a member of his Lodge, in the fidelity and devotion of whom he had placed absolute confidence.

He found himself betrayed and sold as king, as friend and as brother, and placed in the sorrowful necessity to punish as culpable of high treason him whom he had loaded with favors, and embraced as a brother. After long and serious reflections, Frederick formed a resolution truly superhuman, and which elevated him to the rank of a veritable Mason.

He convened a meeting, in which he spoke with a warm eloquence of the duties of