

many of them not specially styled "Masters' Lodges," worked it, but others, from grounds of expediency or inability, failed to work it. Bro. Lane's paper is a very interesting and valuable one, and Bro. Hughan's and Gould's comments on it enforce its value.—*Keystone.*

THE ANTI-MASONIC MOVEMENT IN GERMANY.

The following letter appeared recently in the *London Freemason* :—

Dear Sir and Brother,

Having lately been in Germany and attended among other meetings, one of Lodge Globus, in Hamburg, on 20th July last, which was their installation night, and also G. L. Visitation, I heard it stated, to my great regret, in open lodge, that an anti-Masonic agitation is at present finding many followers in Germany. The brethren of Lodge Globus were very much afraid that all the lodges in Germany would be prohibited, especially as the present Emperor has not followed in the footsteps of his illustrious father and grandfather, who were enthusiastic brethren of the Craft, and looked with great favour and interest on all things which could further the Craft in general.

The present agitation, even if nothing worse follows, will be a great blot on the boasted civilisation and liberalism of Germany, and it may not be out of place to mention here that 105 years ago a similar agitation was got up, in the name of Religion against Masonry, when Frederic the Great wrote the following letter, dated the 7th of February, 1783, and addressed it to the leaders of the agitation—two Catholic monks, named Greinemann, of the Dominican Order, and Schuff, of the Capuchin Order, respectively, who were trying to persuade the public to attack the Craft during the ceremony of consecrating a lodge in Aix-la-Chapelle, and to induce them to murder the brethren present at that ceremony.

The letter is translated as follows :

"February, 7th, 1783.

"My very Reverend Fathers,

"Information has reached me, corroborated by the public press, that you are zealously agitating the public to draw the Sword of Fanaticism against quiet,

virtuous and honourable citizens, whose only crime in your eyes is that they are Freemasons.

"As a past office bearer in this honourable and worshipful Craft, I am compelled to throw your slander and insinuations against the Order back in your face with all the force I possess, and must decline to allow you to draw aside the veil which hides the Temple of Virtue (a Freemasons' lodge), although you represent it to be an association of evil and vice. What, my very reverend Fathers, do you intend to enact over again those centuries of ignorance and barbarism which were a disgrace to humanity and common sense? Those times upon which we cannot look back without a shudder? Those times when Hypocrisy, sitting on the throne of Despotism, between Superstition and Humility, tried to chain the world in ignorance, and without any distinction, burned all those whose crime was, that they could not read?

"You have not only called the Freemasons Sorcerers, but have denounced them as vicious people, thieves and emissaries of the Anti-Christ, and you call on the whole population to kill and destroy them all from off the Face of the Earth. Thieves, my very reverend Fathers, do not make it their duty to assist widows and orphans, on the contrary, thieves plunder them, rob them of their patrimony, and fatten themselves on their booty in the lap of idleness and hypocrisy. Thieves defraud the public but Freemasonry enlightens it. A Mason returning from his lodge, where he is taught only what will benefit mankind at large, returns the better father and better husband through going thither to his work. An Atheist would most probably try to destroy the commandments of the Deity, but a Mason cannot go contrary to the Laws of the Omnipotent without trampling down his own edifice of Masonry. In conclusion, I ask you, how can those possibly be a cursed body of men, whose continual endeavour it is to spread that knowledge which makes a virtuous man and which is to the benefit of mankind at large?

"(Signed)

FREDERIC."

The foregoing letter has been reprinted in many of the more enlightened newspapers of Germany during the preceding