

FOR THE CRAFTSMAN.

## FREEMASONRY IN THE KINGDOM OF BAVARIA.

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In no country of Germany has Freemasonry been subjected to as many restrictions and vexations as in the kingdom of Bavaria; it did not penetrate until lately into the elder Bavaria; and it was not until 1777 that the Royal York Grand Lodge organized a lodge in Munich. But for a long time it has existed in operative lodges located in countries which, in 1810, were annexed to this kingdom. A lodge had been organized by Prince Frederick, of Brandenburg, on the 21st of June, 1741, at Beyreuth, the ancient capital of Franconia, where other lodges were said to have existed at this time; but little is known about them. The Society of the Illuminati, founded by Professor Weisshaupt, and to which was entrusted the noble task of causing virtue to triumph over folly and ignorance, and of carrying instruction and civilization into all classes of society, had found access into some lodges located in elder Bavaria, and particularly those of Munich; and thereupon Prince Charles Theodore, moved by the influence of the Jesuits, issued two decrees, the one dated 2nd March, and the other 16th August, 1785, interdicting the assemblies of the Illuminati, and also those of the Freemasons. Following these prohibitions, which were renewed, from at first by King Maximilian Joseph, on the 4th November, 1799, and subsequently on the 5th March, 1804, the lodges of Munich and of Mannheim ceased their labors. Within the Protestant countries annexed to Bavaria—at Beyreuth and Ratisbonne—the lodges were allowed to continue their labors, but under most intolerable restrictions. No employees of the government, either civil or military, were permitted to attend any of the meetings or to be initiated into them;

in a word, these lodges had to contend with the Jesuitical tendencies of the government, and were consequently paralyzed in their actions. Notwithstanding this pressure, however, the lodge at Beyreuth, constituted on the 8th August, 1800, as a Provincial Grand Lodge, under the jurisdiction of the Royal York Grand Lodge at Berlin, made a stand under the Grand-Mastership of Count Giech and Bro. Voelendorf, prefect of the government; and finally in 1811, it, with four other lodges, created an independent power at Beyreuth, under the title of "Grand Lodge of the Sun." This authority has at present under its jurisdiction in the northern portion of Bavaria nearly twenty operative lodges, while in the southern portion, which is entirely Roman Catholic, Freemasonry is completely interdicted; the light in that part still remains under a bushel, and superstition is as great as though a Martin Luther never appeared in Germany. But the old saying is, "Where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise."

## FREEMASONRY.

"It is a vulgar error to suppose that Freemasonry does not exist and flourish in what are all but exclusively Roman Catholic countries, or that it does not therein worthily exemplify its cardinal principles of 'brotherly love, relief, and truth;' and, as so aptly put by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, its distinguishing attributes of 'loyalty and charity.'"

"Among the many influential Masonic grand bodies of the world, with large numbers of constituent lodges, are those of Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, and other Catholic countries in Europe; and those of Mexico, the United States of Columbia, the Empire of Brazil, the Argentine Republic, Uruguay, Peru, Ven-