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Seat of Knowledge

Issue II Vol. V

May 6018

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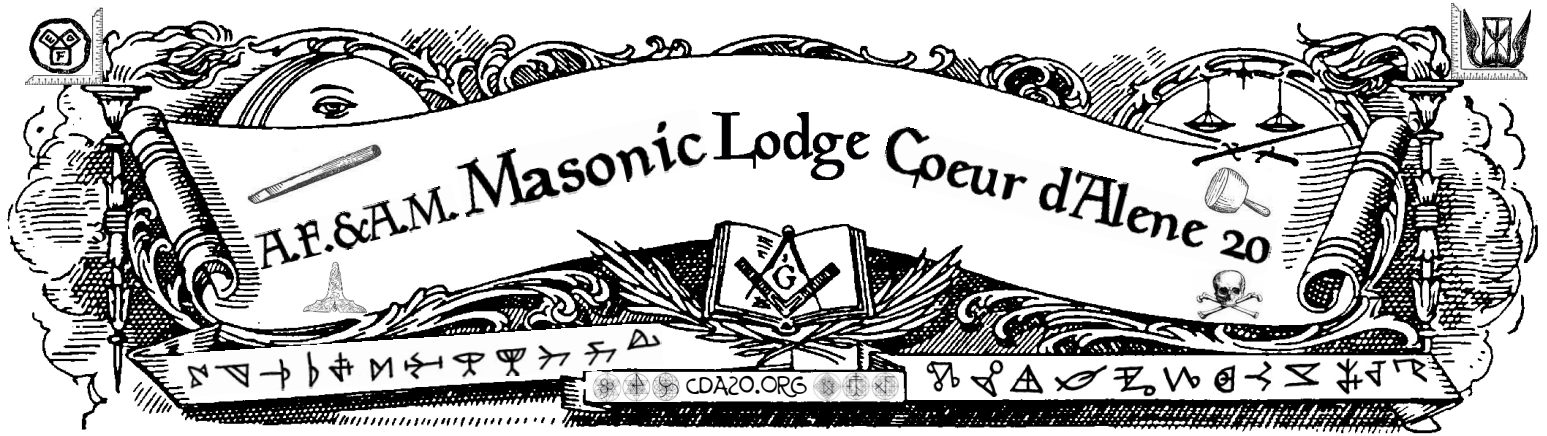




Augustus P. E. B.

SPECIAL ISSUE IN HONOR OF HRH GRANDMASTER PRINCE FREDERICK

Who passed away April 21, 1843



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The Seat of Knowledge Trestleboard is an education based newsletter extracting articles and knowledge of interest from the past. Freemasonry is a rich and diversified field with world renown scholars who have contributed their knowledge to enhance ours, therein lies the reason for this particular Trestleboard. We are however happy to receive any articles or news including pictures from brothers of CDA 20 as well as recommendations and or suggestions. Please email submissions to: DB Jordan: [CDA20.org@gmail.com](mailto:CDA20.org@gmail.com)

*“Employ your time in improving yourself by other men’s writings so that you shall come easily by what others have labored hard for.” – Socrates*



**CDA 20 Stated Communication  
Mon. 14 May @ 1900 Hrs**

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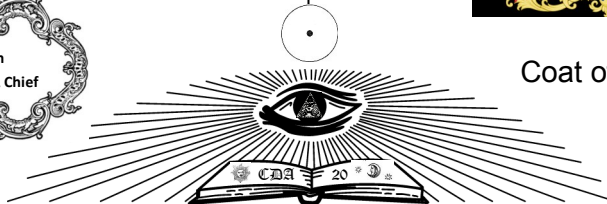
This special issue is hereby dedicated to the memory of HRH Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, KG, KT, GCB, GCH, PRS, FRSA.

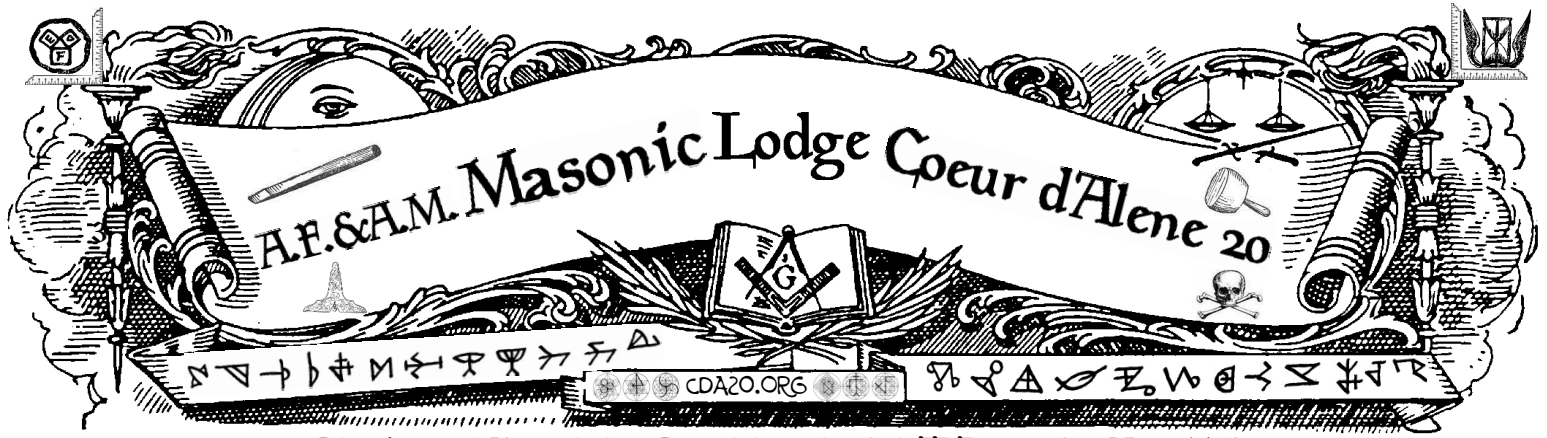
It was in the month of April on the 21st day in the year 1843, when Prince Fredrick passed away. HRH was the Grandmaster of the United Grand Lodge of England, 1813–1843 and was probably the most beloved of all grandmasters to have held this most honorable office. HRH GM Frederick held many honors including:

- Grand Master of the Premier Grand Lodge of England, 1813**
- Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, 1813-1843**
- Knight of the Order of the Garter, 27 June 1786**
- Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Guelphic Order, 12 July 1815**
- Knight of the Order of the Thistle, 19 July 1830**
- Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, 15 December 1837**
- Grand Master of the Order of the Bath, 16 December 1837**



Coat of Arms





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The Masonic details about the late Grand Master are believed to be correct, having been taken from the best sources of authority, and will be read with some interest; and the list of a long line of Princes of the Royal House of Brunswick, who have associated under the Masonic banner, will be read with grateful remembrance of their protection.

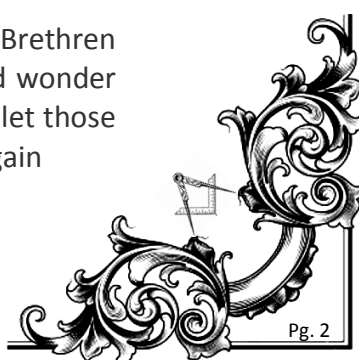
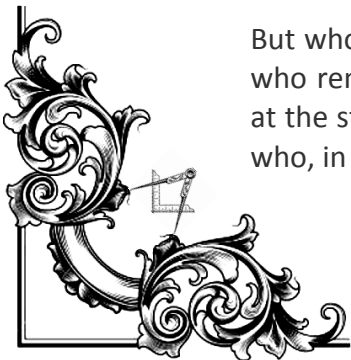
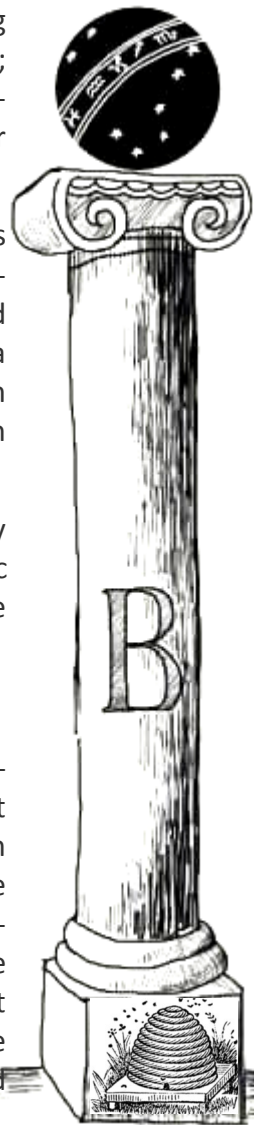
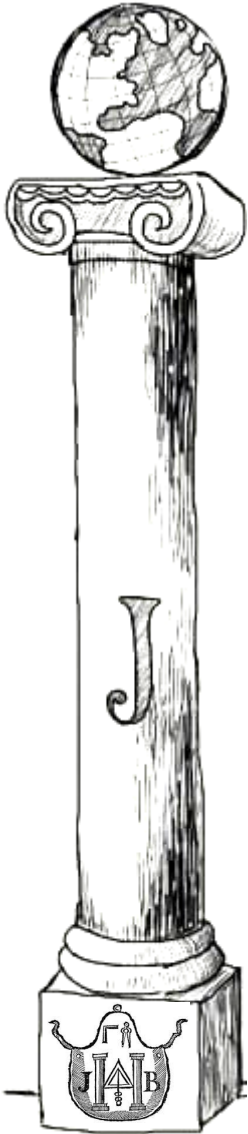
As a Freemason, the Duke of Sussex was the most accomplished Craftsman of his day. His knowledge of the mysteries was, as it were, intuitive; his reading on the subject was extensive — his correspondence equally so; and his desire to be introduced to any Brother from whose experience he could derive any information, had in it a craving that marked his great devotion to the order. His affability was so free from affectation or condescension, that those who for the first time had the honor of an introduction to his Royal Highness, were always struck with its peculiar kindness.

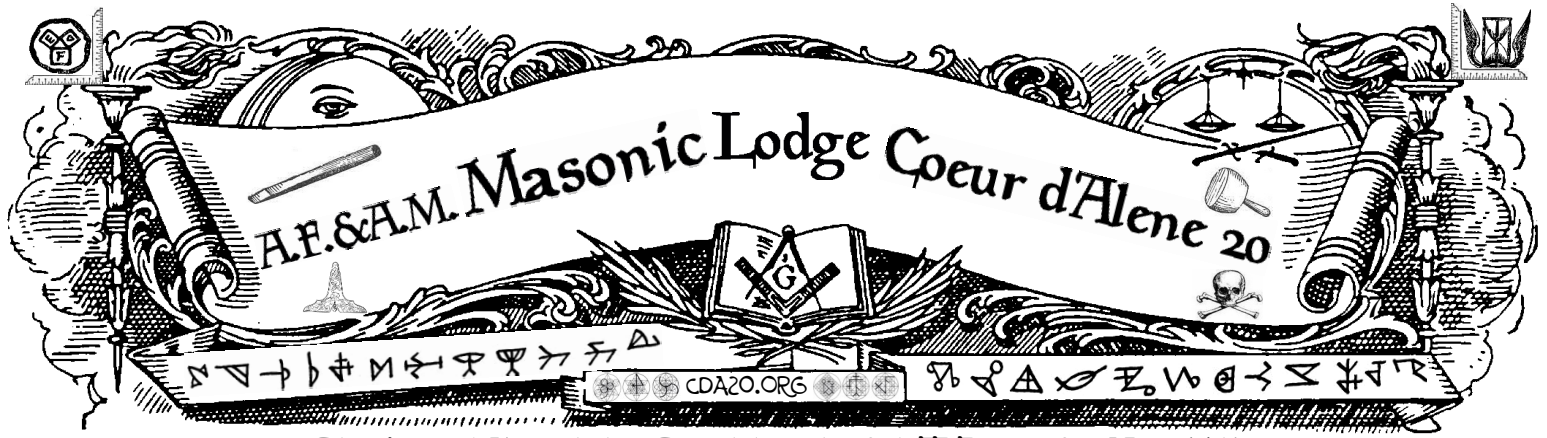
There was even danger in it, as we have heard many express the words, lest they might be betrayed into a forgetfulness of social distinction — we allude to Masonic interviews; — but there is no doubt that in every other case, also, the conduct of the Prince was ever that of a kind-hearted English gentleman.

**A MASON TO THE LAST**

To the successor of our Grand Master, his character will afford matter for deep reflection. The Masonic throne is an important one. The Duke of Sussex, however shut out from the general advantages of his rank, owing to circumstances developed in the political extracts, found a moral repose in Freemasonry, and prospered in the mind of men by the power of public opinion. The Grand Master of England was literally the Grand Master of the Fraternity of the World; and, although he outlived the difficulties of those untoward circumstances, he continued to preside over the Craft with as much feeling of gratitude as of affection. He was sensitive on his prerogative as Grand Master, as could be shown in many instances. The cases of the late Lord Monson, and even his personal friend, the Earl of Durham, proved that rank, station, or friendship, were considered as but secondary matters, when he thought, whether properly or not, that the prerogative of the Grand Master was involved.

But who can do justice to the last moments of the dying Mason? Let those Brethren who remember the magnificent conception of the Third Degree pause, and wonder at the strictness with which their Grand Master illustrated every point; and let those who, in the confusion of contending thoughts have forgotten it, now seek again





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the Light, And square their own conduct by that of the late Grand Master ; and may their last moments be as peaceful!

Still, however severe his loss to the Craft may be, the Mason's trust and hope, as well as that of all mankind, is in God. There is a moral security that time will repair it.

The Grand Master has left us the residuary legatees of his good wishes, and the devisees of his Masonic example; and, with these impressions, we arrive at the conclusion that Freemasonry for a time may mourn, but "that it is too holy an institution to be entombed with the mortal remains of any man."

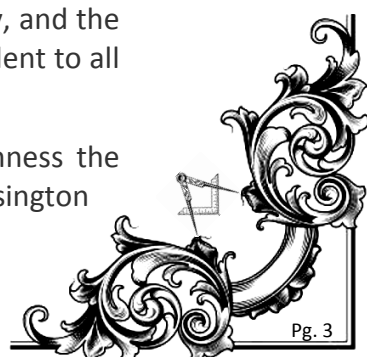
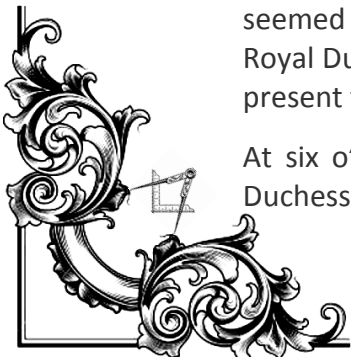
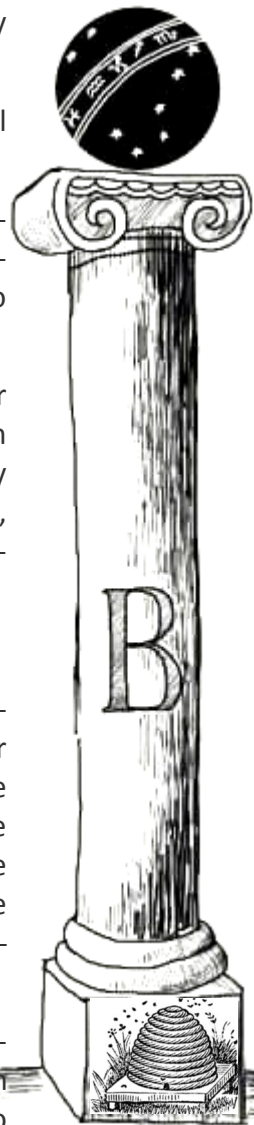
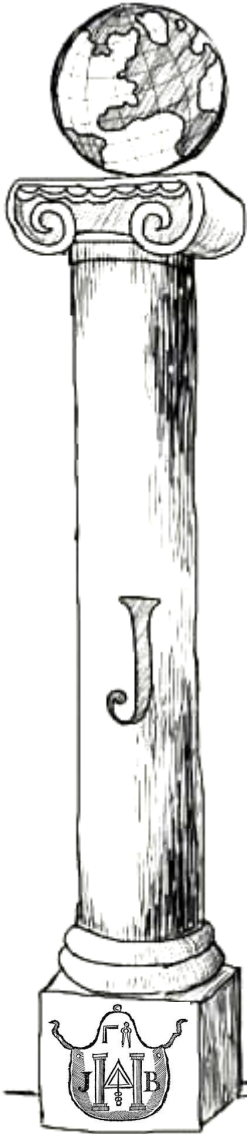
We possess much important matter, which we hope to give by occasional papers; for "the Duke of Sussex" forms an era in the order, and years will elapse before he can cease to be an object of the deepest interest. We shall close this Supplementary Number with an account of the connection of the Royal Family with Freemasonry, leaving, probably, to our successors the task of illustrating each character by appropriate comments.

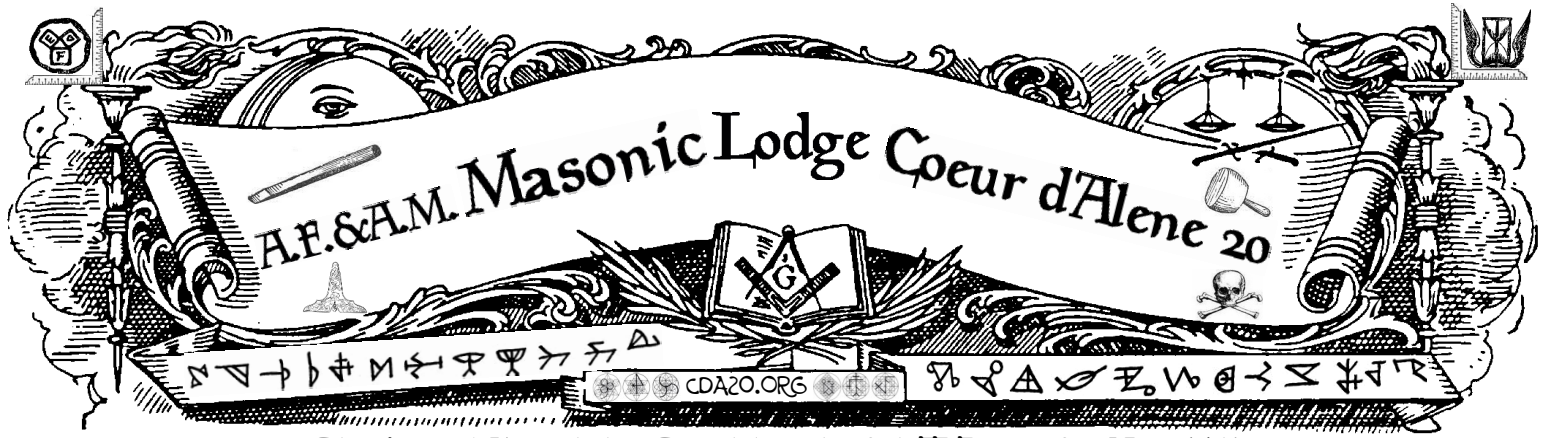
### HIS LAST MOMENTS

On Thursday night, after the issue of the second bulletin, Mr. Copland quitted the palace for town. Dr. Holland and Dr. Chambers, with Mr. Savory, remaining with their royal patient. Shortly after nine o'clock. His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge returned to Kensington Palace, and remained there during the night. Shortly before midnight, at which late hour numerous persons were still waiting about the palace avenue, the Duchess of Bedford, who had been staying for some hours with the Duchess of Inverness, quitted the palace for her own residence at Campden-hall, Kensington.

During Thursday the illustrious sufferer took scarcely any nourishment or refreshment, with the exception of a very small quantity of turtle-soup, which he had much difficulty in swallowing, and a little orange ice. Throughout the day he appeared, to those in attendance upon him, to be dozing, and scarcely sensible of what was passing around him. About four o'clock this (Friday) morning, however, his Royal Highness seemed to revive a little, but that appearance, unhappily, soon passed away, and the Royal Duke relapsed into the same quiescent state, and it soon became evident to all present that his Royal Highness was fast sinking, and could not long survive.

At six o'clock in the morning a mounted messenger from her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge, who was staying at Cambridge-house, arrived at Kensington





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for the purpose of ascertaining the Duke of Sussex's condition, and shortly afterwards the Duke of Cambridge left the palace and walked across the green to the residence of the Princess Sophia, for the purpose of communicating to her Royal Highness, and the Duchess of Gloucester, who had stayed there during the night, the hopeless state of their illustrious brother. His Royal Highness returned to the palace about seven o'clock.

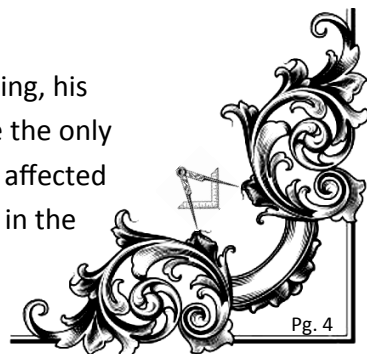
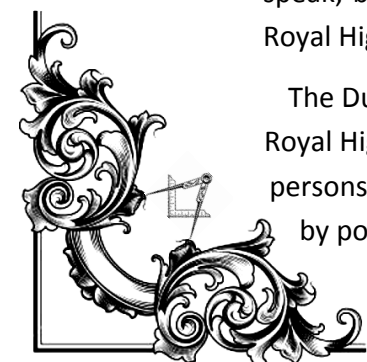
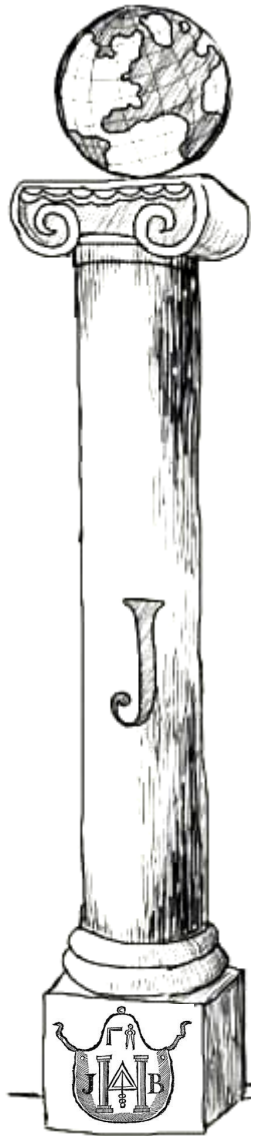
Soon after seven o'clock Mr. Copland returned to the palace, and before eight o'clock messengers from her Majesty and Prince Albert, the Duchess of Kent, and the Princess Sophia Matilda, had made inquiries after his Royal Highness's state.

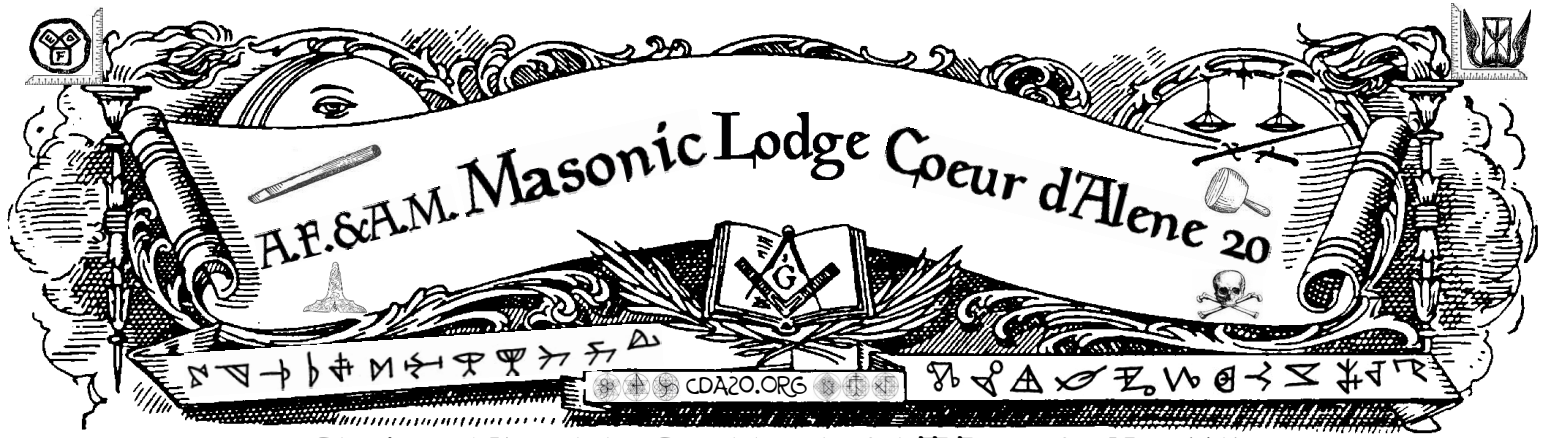
As the morning advanced, the number of persons assembled in the avenue and in Kensington-gardens, near the palace, continued to increase, and before ten o'clock the carriages of numbers of the nobility, cabinet ministers, &c., had already made calls at the palace. Shortly before eleven o'clock a carriage with four horses, containing an equerry of her Majesty the Queen Dowager, and the Rev. Mr. Woods, her Majesty's chaplain, arrived from Bushey, and made inquiries as to the state of his Royal Highness.

Yesterday morning at eight o'clock the medical gentlemen found their royal patient, who had passed another very bad night, in a state which precluded all hope of recovery, and they stated it as their belief that it was now only a question of time as to when death would ensue.

His Royal Highness, who was still sensible, shortly afterwards expressed a wish that his servants, by whom his Royal Highness was greatly respected and beloved, should be called up to take their leave of him, and directions were given that all the domestics who could be spared should attend the bedside of their dying master. They accordingly repaired to the painful scene — for it was now but too evident that the minutes of the Duke's life were numbered. When the servants entered the room he made an effort to speak, but the effort failed him — he could not articulate — and in a few seconds his Royal Highness was no more.

The Duke of Cambridge, who had been with his suffering brother all the morning, his Royal Highness's four equeries, the medical gentlemen, and the servants, were the only persons present when death terminated the scene. The entire household were affected by poignant grief, but the Highland piper, who had been nearly twenty years in the service of his Royal master, was inconsolable.





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The intelligence of the event quickly spread through the neighborhood of Kensington, upon which it cast a deep gloom, for the Duke of Sussex was greatly beloved by all who had the honor of knowing him, as well as by those amongst whom he had so long resided.

It is an interesting circumstance that his Royal Highness desired the prayers of the Church in his last moments, and was prayed for at Kensington yesterday night, in the usual place in the Liturgy.

In the metropolis, similar demonstrations of respect were adopted, and the bells of most of the churches were tolled in the course of the afternoon and evening. The flags on the various churches, and on the shipping in the river, were also hoisted half-staff high.

For several years past the health of the deceased Prince rendered prolongation of life a matter of extreme uncertainty. Those who knew him intimately were aware of this. In earlier life so much did he suffer from asthma, that for many years he knew not the luxury of a bed; and an insufficient amount of daily exercise prevented the constitution from becoming robust; — indeed the professional reader, on perusing the report of the post mortem examination, will wonder at the capability of the system to have sustained so long, with so much apparent ease, the wear and tear of life.

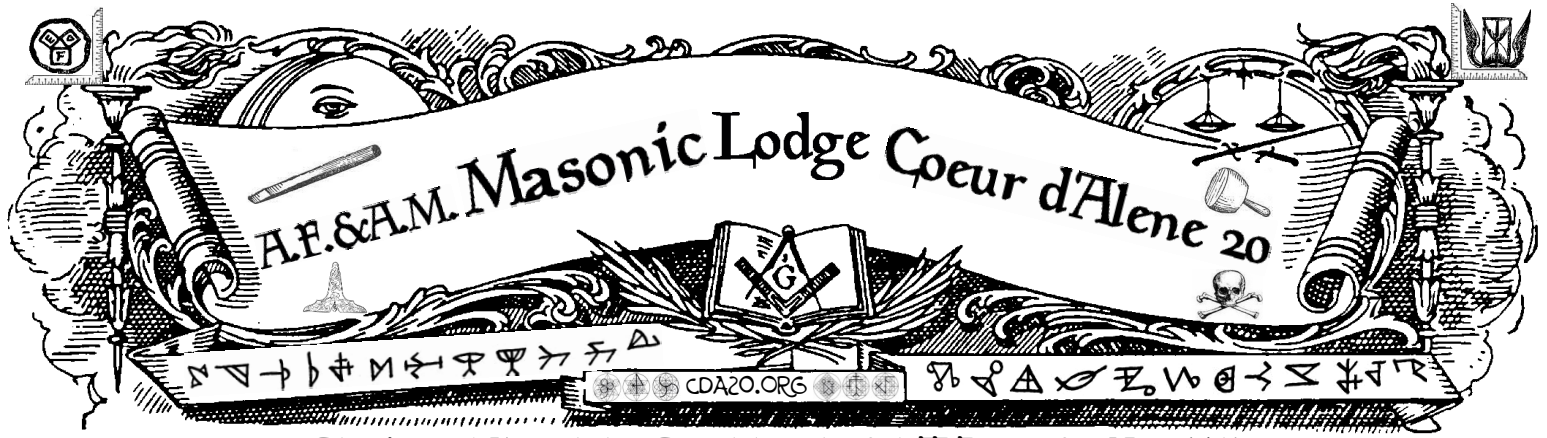
**MEETINGS THEREAFTER**

Holden in the Chamber of the Guildhall of the City of London, on  
Thursday, the 27th day of April, 1843.

Resolved unanimously — “That this Court, having received the melancholy intelligence of the decease of his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, are desirous of recording the deep sense entertained by this Court of the princely virtues, the manly character, the earnest advocacy of the principles of civil and religious liberty, the constant patronage and efficient support of the various charities of this Metropolis, the devotion to the extension of art, science, literature, and geiferal education evinced by his Royal Highness, through the course of his valuable life; and this Court, upon this occasion, unfeignedly condole with her Most Gracious Majesty and the members of his late Royal Highness’s family, upon the loss which the Royal Family, this Court, and the nation have sustained.”



Order of the Garter , Prince Frederick  
Duke of Sussex



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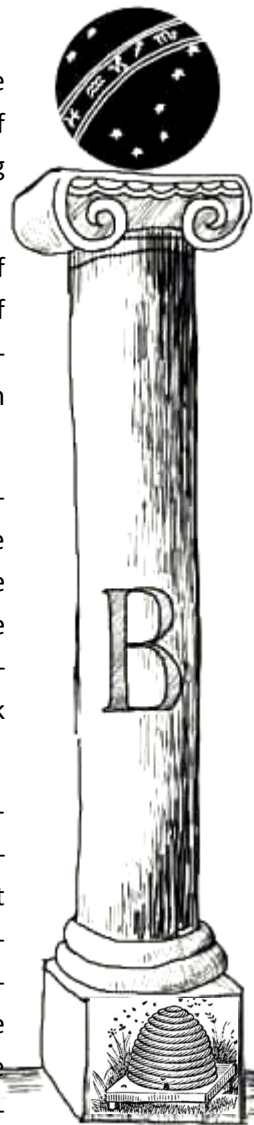
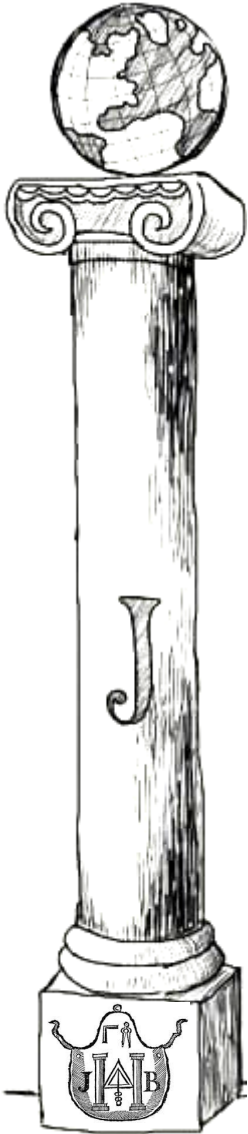
THE HON ARTILLERY COMPANY

The death of his Royal Highness having been communicated from Kensington Palace to the officer commanding at the head-quarters of the Honorable Artillery Company, the Court of Assistants, of which the field-officers are ex officio members, assembled, and the following resolution was unanimously adopted: —

“The melancholy duty has devolved upon the Court of Assistants of recording the demise of his Royal Highness Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, Earl of Inverness, Baron of Arklow, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, &c, &c., their illustrious Captain-General, and Colonel, which took place this day at a quarter past twelve, pm., at Kensington Palace.

“His Royal Highness permitted himself to be elected Colonel of the Honorable Artillery Company in the year 1817, when his late Majesty King George IV. (then Prince Regent), was the Captain-General; and his Royal Highness was annually re-elected Colonel (under the privilege then exercised by the corps) during the remainder of that reign. On the accession of his late Majesty King William IV., his Majesty was graciously pleased to nominate himself Captain-General, and by warrant to appoint his Royal Highness Colonel of the corps, and which rank his Royal Highness continued to hold under the authority of the royal warrant.

“In the year 1837, her present Majesty (whom God preserve), by her royal warrant, graciously conferred upon his Royal Highness the rank of Captain-General of the Hon. Artillery Company, in addition to his command as Colonel, and his Royal Highness retained the conjoint rank until his lamented decease. The demeanor of his Royal Highness to the corps collectively, and the individual members, was condescending, and such as to command the most profound respect and deference, united with the deepest feelings of grateful and affectionate attachment. It is scarcely necessary the corps should declare how sincerely they sympathize in the sorrow which their loyal comrades will long and unequivocally entertain while contemplating the mournful event which it has been the will of Providence to permit.”







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**HIS CHARACTER AND LIFE IN THE PUBLIC PRESS**

From the West Briton Paper

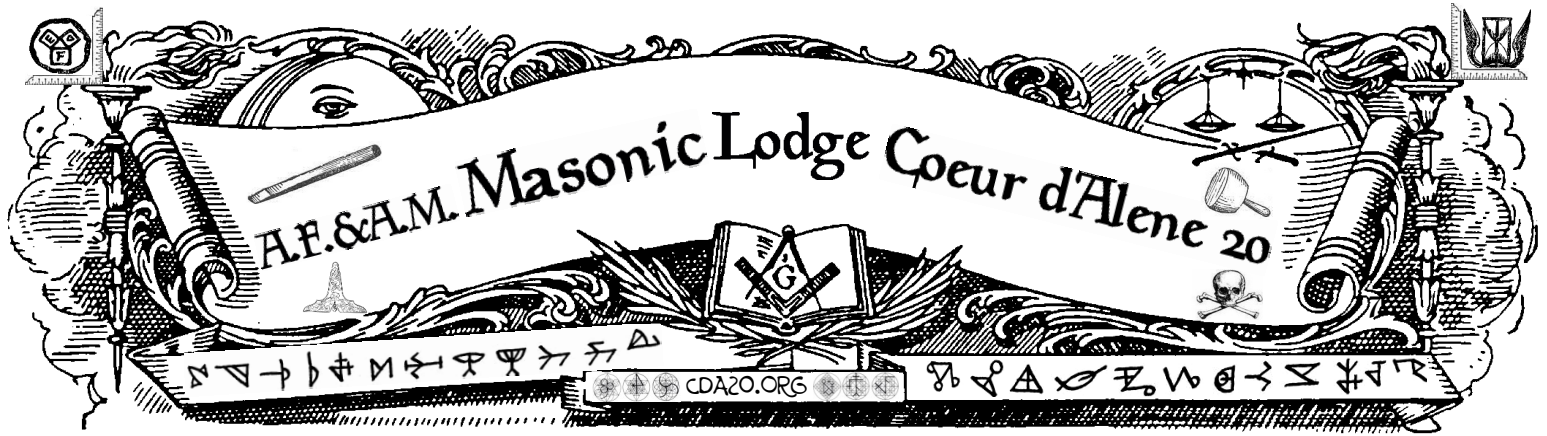
But the highest praise that can be awarded to the Duke of Sussex is that he was a Christian, and that as such he drew his rules of conduct directly from the volume of inspiration. We remember that at some public meeting in London, a year or two since, the statement was very simply and unostentatiously made by him, that it was his constant practice to devote two hours daily to the perusal of the scriptures. If thus "the foundations of his mind were laid," it is not to be wondered at that he reared upon them so massy and durable a fame. Burke used to say that he dreaded to meet in argument a man of one book— a person satiated with the thoughts and sentiments of some one illustrious man. If the mind is thus to be strengthened and enlarged by receiving into itself the productions of a kindred intellect, how much more so by being nurtured by the pure emanations of divine wisdom! We close this brief notice with the expression of our sorrowful feeling at the loss the country has sustained, but which is yet tempered by a sense of gratification that to the record of British princes there is added one whose virtues will shed a permanent luster upon the annals of his times.

From the Leeds Mercury

The Duke of Sussex was a prince of liberal and constitutional principles, of highly cultivated mind, of most honorable, generous, and kindly feeling, and of a steady and ardent patriotism. He was a patron of literature, and he had become celebrated for his astonishing collection of tendons of the Holy Scriptures, manuscript and printed, in all languages, — numbering, if we mistake not, from 5000 to 6000 different editions. His Royal Highness gave a firm and earnest support to the Reform Bill, and sanctioned by his votes and speeches in the House of Lords, and by his presence when the royal assent was given, that great change in the Representative system. He was particularly distinguished for a warm and enlightened attachment to religious liberty. In him the rights of the Dissenters ever found a decided advocate. At the present moment, the loss of so illustrious a friend to the rights of conscience will be sincerely lamented.



Civil Knights Grand Cross of the Bath - Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex

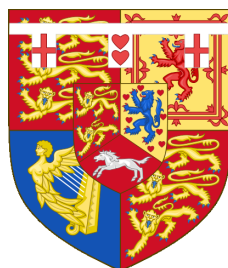
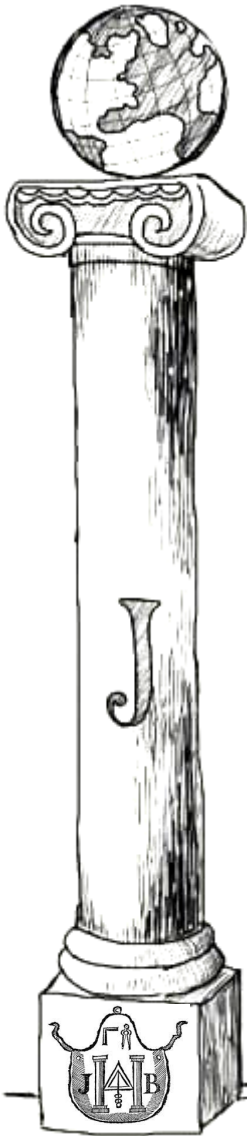


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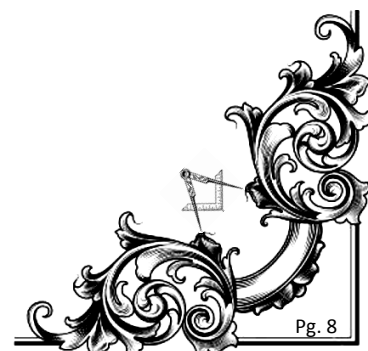
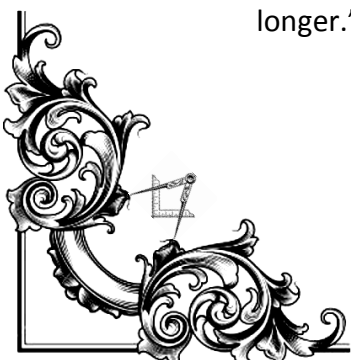
From the Caledonian Mercury

In the Duke of Sussex we may truly say the nation has lost a wise councilor and a liberal benefactor. He was a Prince who ever entertained temperate and enlightened views as to the constitution of his country. At an early period he imbibed the principles of Fox, from which he never deviated during a long life. Apart from public affairs, the character of his Royal Highness afforded a fine illustration of the English gentleman. In literature, science, and those arts which elevate civilization while they minister to the comfort of society, the country has ever found a warm and discriminating patron in the Duke of Sussex. Endowed with an active mind, and deeply attached to his native soil, it became with him not merely the duty but the solace of his life to encourage, both by precept and example, all that could conduce to the wellbeing of his countrymen. At one period he would be found presiding amidst the aristocracy of talent — the Herschels, Faradays, Daltons, and Others, who have extended the confines of human knowledge, and at another lending his exalted station, not forgetting more substantial aid, to the encouragement of those institutions which it is the boast of the metropolis to have established for the relief of the poor and distressed.

Since the accession of the youthful Queen Victoria, the illustrious Duke necessarily assumed a more intimate position to the Throne — a vicinity that was regarded with unalloyed joy and confidence by the nation, as it seemed no less acceptable to the inheritor of the Crown. Between her Majesty and her royal relative the natural tie was even strengthened in the progress of events. The Duke of Sussex was the nearest male relative to her Majesty in this country, and his age and experience, and affectionate solicitude for the personal comfort of his illustrious niece, all tended to point him out as one of her Majesty's most confidential advisers at the commencement of the reign, and an important epoch of the royal nuptials. It may be recollected his Royal Highness avowed in the House of Peers, that using the privilege of his station, and actuated by his deep regard for her Majesty, he had addressed Prince Albert to the effect, "You may rely on my esteem and confidence so long as your conduct and duty to her Majesty corresponds With my expectations, but no longer."



Arms of Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex





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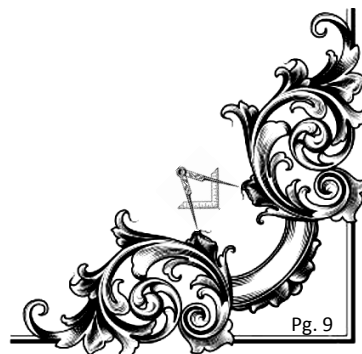
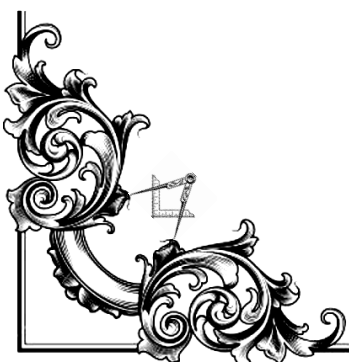
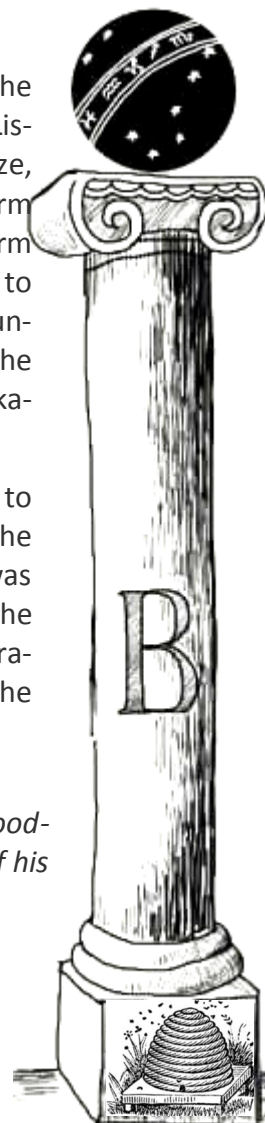
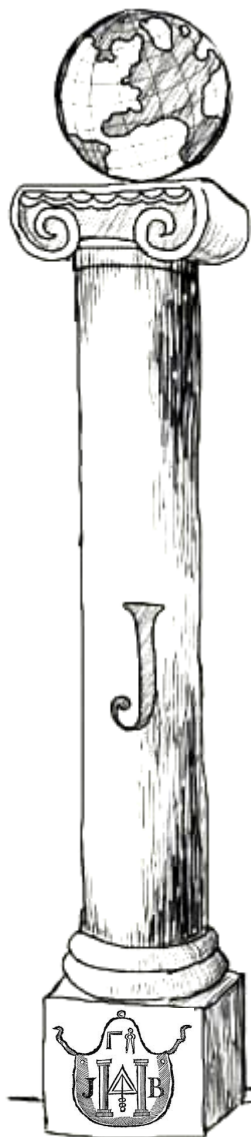
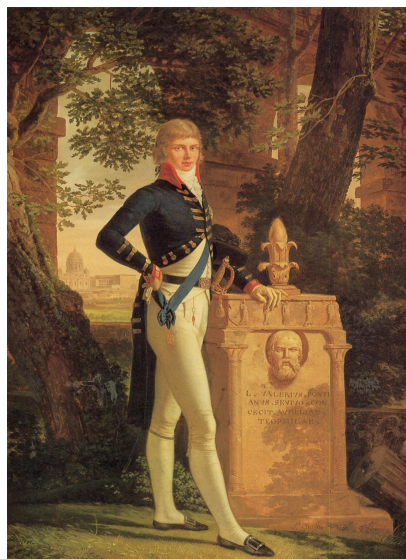
MASONIC ANECDOTE

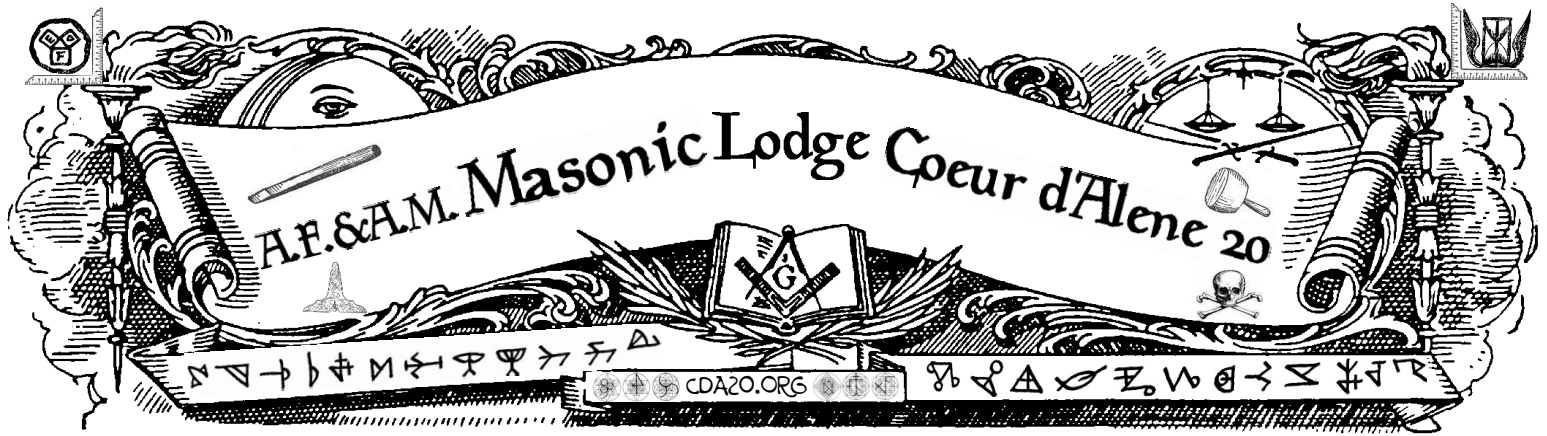
When at Berlin, his Royal Highness formed a very valuable connection between the Royal York Lodge in that city, and the Grand Lodge of England. During his stay in Lisbon, the Grand Lodge of Paris sent several deputies, officers of the frigate La Topaze, to assemble the Portuguese Freemasons in harbor, and grant them warrants to form Lodges. The Duke of Sussex, however, advised them rather than do that, to form Lodges of themselves, and send a representative to the Grand Lodge of England, to be acknowledged by that body; in which case the political independence of the country could not be biased by the Masonic connection of the Portuguese Lodges with the Grand Lodge of France. The beneficial effects of this advice were shewn in a remarkable circumstance.

When Junot (himself a Mason) took possession of Portugal in 1808, he intimated to the Lodges in Lisbon that he would visit them, provided they would take down the portrait of their Prince Regent, and substitute in its stead that of Napoleon, who was then, de facto the master or sovereign of the country — he (Junot) would accept the office of Grand Master in Portugal. The Lodges, however, unanimously resolved, rather than submit to the proposition, even to dissolve as a body, and declined the proffered support.

*A Master in Israel has solved the dread enigma; and whether as a Prince of the blood-royal of England, or as Grand Master of the Order of Freemasonry, the character of his late Royal Highness, Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, belongs to history.*

Composed by the Reverend G. Oliver, D.D., P.D.P.G.M. for Lincolnshire.





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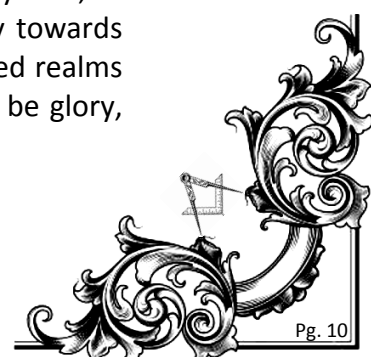
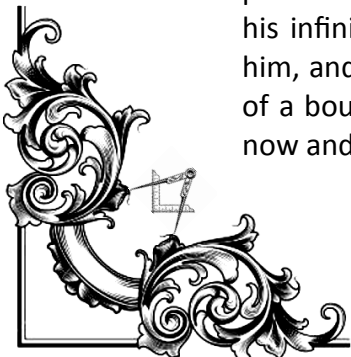
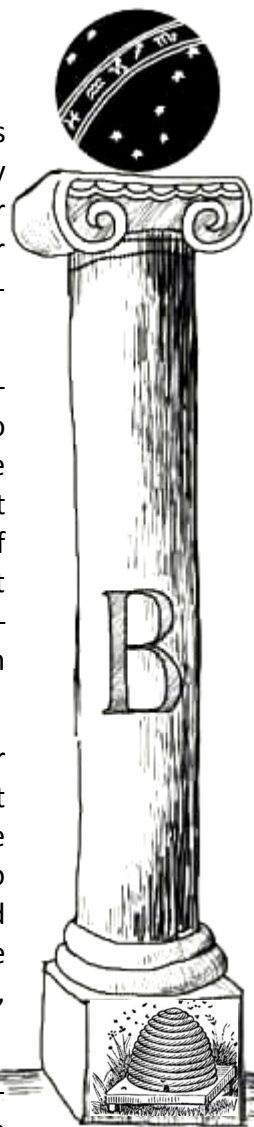
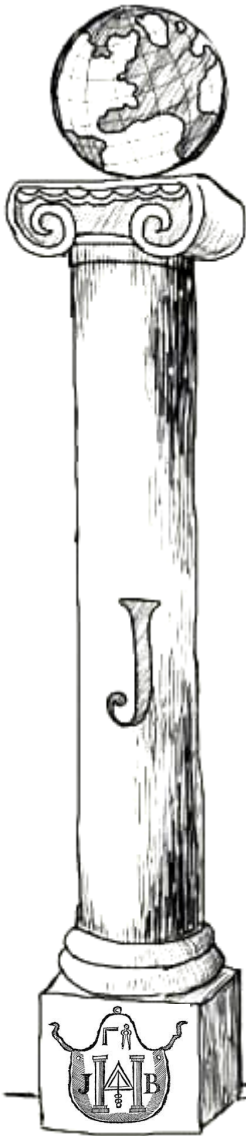
**The Hebrew Brethren**

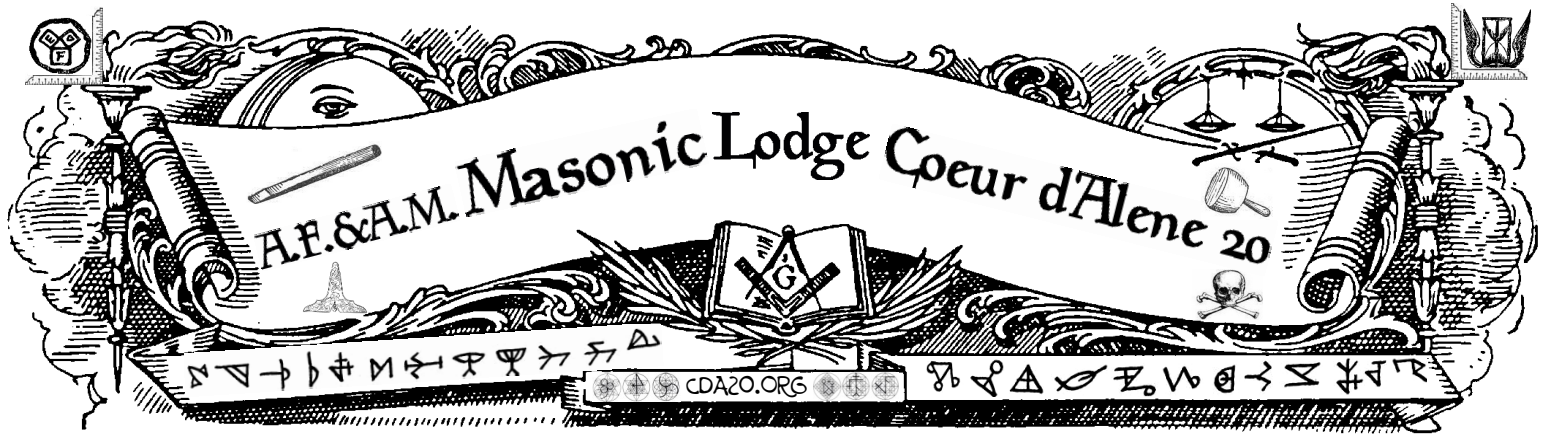
“While we drop the sympathetic tear over the memory of our deceased illustrious Grand Master, let charity incline us to throw a veil over his foibles, whatever they may have been, and not withhold the praise that his virtues may have claimed. Suffer the apologies of human nature to plead in his behalf. Perfection on earth has never been attained; the wisest as well as the best of men have erred. His meritorious actions it is our duty to imitate, and from his weakness We ought to derive instruction.

“Let the present example excite our most serious thoughts, and strengthen our resolutions of amendment. As life is uncertain, and all earthly pursuits are vain, let us no longer postpone the important concern of preparing for eternity; but embrace the happy moment, while time and opportunity offer, to provide against the great change, when all the pleasures of this life shall cease to delight, and the reflections of a virtuous life yield the only comfort and consolation. Thus our expectations will not be frustrated, nor ourselves be called away unprepared, into the presence of an all-wise and omnipotent Judge, to whom the secrets of all hearts are known, and from whose dread tribunal no sinners can escape.”

“In conformity with an ancient usage, and at the specific request of several of our Brethren, who sympathize in common with all the nation at the demise of our Most Worshipful Grand Master his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, whose memory we revere and whose loss we now deeply deplore, and whose body is now consigned to its mother earth, whence it came; we have assembled, in the character of Free and Accepted Masons, to offer up to his Royal Highness’s memory, before the world, the last tribute of our affections, thereby demonstrating the sincerity of our past esteem, and our inviolable attachment to the principles of our order.”

“Unto the grave hath this day been consigned the mortal remains of our most illustrious Prince and Brother, there to remain until the general resurrection, in favorable expectation, that his immortal soul may then partake of joys, which have been prepared for the righteous from the beginning of the world. And may Almighty God, of his infinite goodness, at the tribunal of unbiased justice, extend his mercy towards him, and all of us, and crown our hope with everlasting bliss in the expanded realms of a boundless eternity! This we beg, for the honor of his name, to whom be glory, now and for ever. Amen.”





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**Masonic Memoir**

“What charitable institution has not benefited by the advocacy of this illustrious Prince!— what scientific institution has not been indebted to his patronage!”

“His Royal Highness was initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry in the year 1798, at Berlin, in the Royal York Lodge; on the demise of the late Admiral Sir Peter Parker, Deputy Grand Master, and one of the most zealous Masons of the day the Prince Regent, then Grand Master, appointed the Duke of Sussex, on the 12th day of February, 1812, Deputy Grand Master.

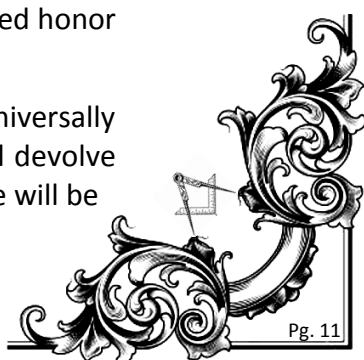
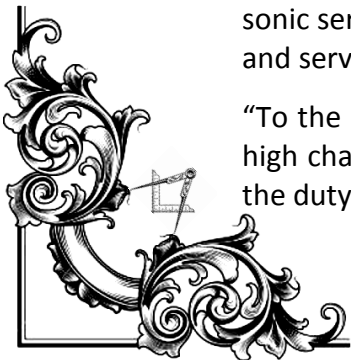
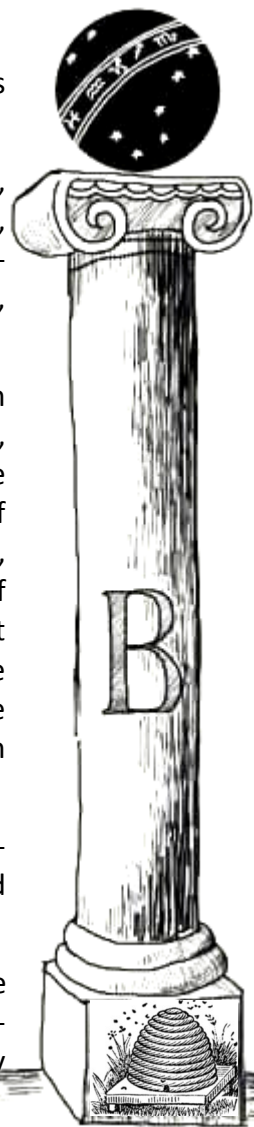
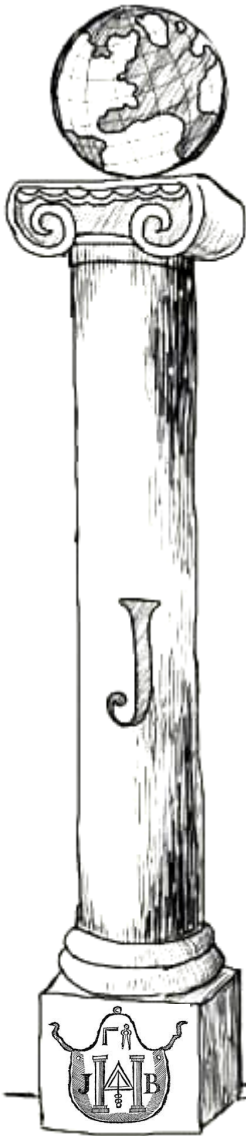
One of the most interesting Masonic festivals ever remembered was held on the 27th of January, 1813, in compliment to that highly distinguished Mason and upright man, the late Earl of Moira, (afterwards created Marquis of Hastings, and at that time Acting Grand Master,) on the eve of his departure from England, to take upon himself the important office of Governor-general of India. At this festival, his Royal Highness, the present Grand Master, presided, supported by his royal relatives the Dukes of York, Clarence, Kent, Cumberland, and Gloucester. It were needless here to advert at length to the leading features of this auspicious meeting otherwise than to observe that, as it had been fixed to take place on the natal day of the Duke of Sussex, the peculiar circumstance was very happily alluded to by the distinguished guest, when proposing the health of the royal chairman.

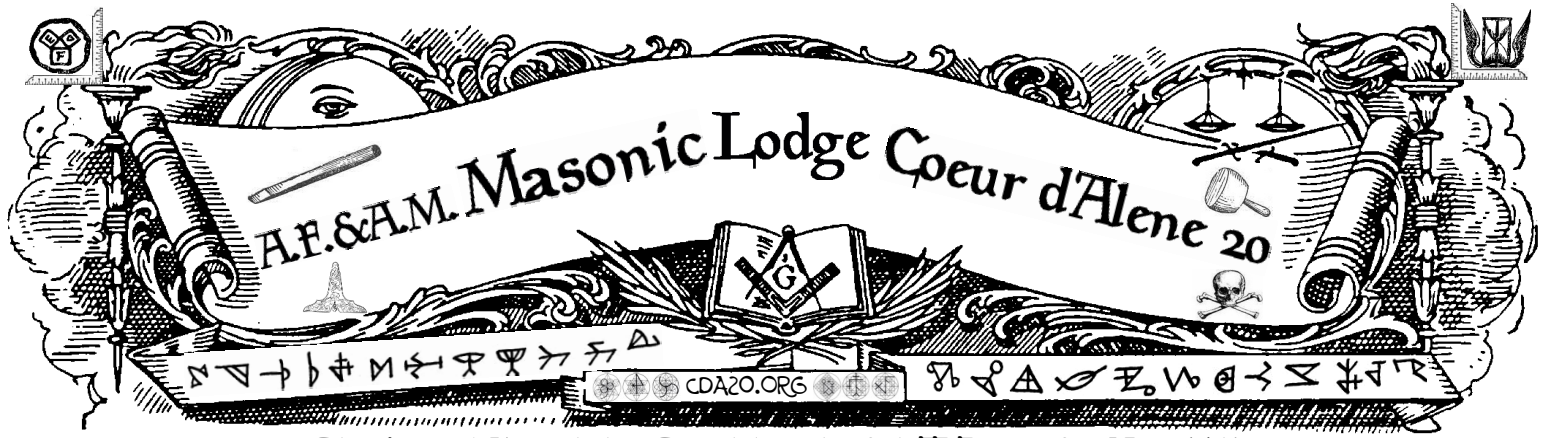
“We may, however, add that the natal day of our Grand Master has, since that period, been annually celebrated by the London fraternity, as also by many provincial and foreign Lodges holding under the English constitution.”

The Prince Regent having expressed a wish not to be re-elected Grand Master, the Grand Lodge unanimously elected the Duke of Sussex to fill that important and dignified station in the Craft, on the 7th of April, 1813. The installation was unusually splendid, being attended by thirteen Provincial Grand Masters.

“His Royal Highness has since been annually re-elected, amidst the most affectionate demonstrations of attachment, and has, consequently, now performed his public Masonic service, as Grand Master, for twenty- five years: a period of distinguished honor and services unexampled in the annals of Masonry.”

“To the historian will be left the important charge of doing justice to the universally high character of our distinguished Prince, and upon some Masonic pen will devolve the duty of recording his claims to the lasting gratitude of the Craft; but there will be





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no claim more solid or brilliant than that arising from his successful exertions in uniting the two Masonic Societies then existing in London, in that strictest bond of union which, whatever lustre it has shed around the promoters of so blessed a service, was eclipsed in the added beauty and strength which the order gained from their united influence and wisdom.

"Thenceforward all was perfect cooperation; but in that goodly work we must accord equal praise to departed merit. H. R. H. the late Duke of Kent — father of our present most gracious Queen and Sovereign Lady — a Grand Master of the order, was associated in co-equal power with his illustrious brother; and for the zeal, spirit, intelligence, and success with which he aided him, his memory is justly as sincerely revered by the Brethren of the order."

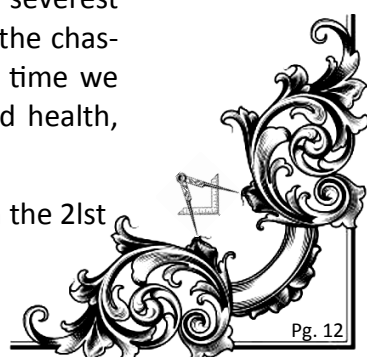
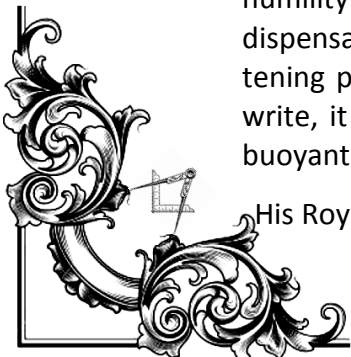
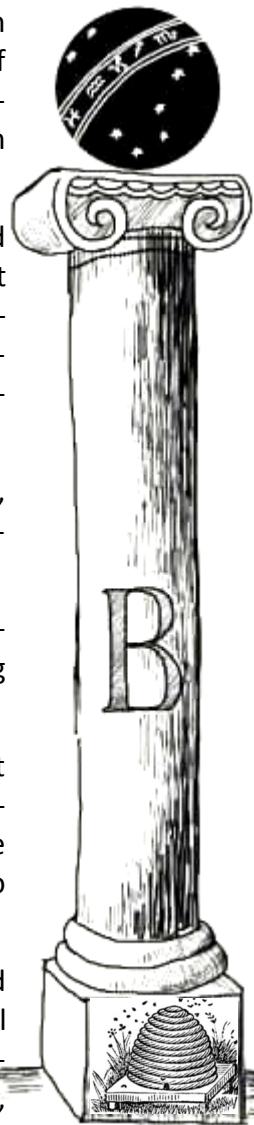
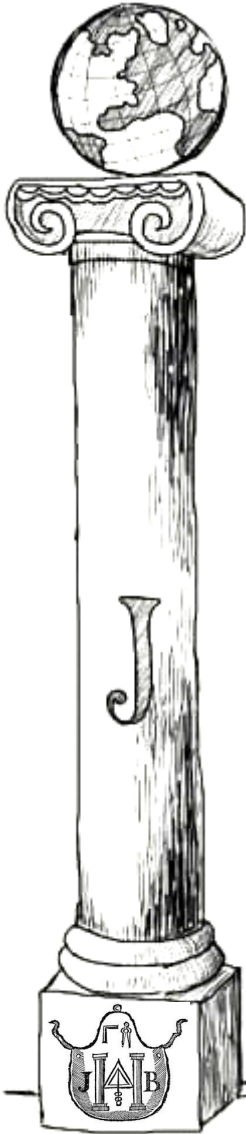
The Duke of Sussex was elected Master of the Lodge of Friendship in March, 1806, joined the Lodge of Antiquity on the 31st of March, 1808, and on the 1st of December, 1813, was obligated in the Lodge of Reconciliation.

"This latter course was necessarily the preliminary step to the union which was shortly afterwards ratified by the Royal Brothers of Kent and Sussex, by Articles bearing date 1st December, 1813."

"On the 27th of the same month, after a most eloquent address, the Duke of Kent proposed as Grand Master, his illustrious and dear relative; and the proposition having been unanimously carried, the Duke of Kent and the Count Lagardje placed the Duke of Sussex on the Masonic throne, to the great delight of a vast assembly, who testified their Masonic homage on the occasion."

"During the twenty-five years that our royal Master has presided over the Grand Lodge, how many striking lessons have been read to us — one by one, all his royal relatives who had taken an active part in the concerns of the order, have been removed 'from amongst men; our Grand Master, of this number, alone remains to us, and grateful are we to Him, who has mercifully ordained that we may still possess 'a ruler in the Craft, whose superior knowledge can regulate our discipline, and whose humility and piety, under painful affliction, have taught us how calmly the severest dispensations of Providence can be contemplated by the sincere Mason as the chastening purification of the mind through the sufferings of the body. At the time we write, it is our happiness to state, that our illustrious ruler enjoys renewed health, buoyant spirits, and the full exercise of his master-mind."

His Royal Highness, we are informed, joined the Prince of Wales's Lodge, on the 21st of November, 1800; if so, it was probably as an honorary member.





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**Churchill, Deputy Grand Muter, who was much affected in delivering it : —**

“To His Royal Highness Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England .

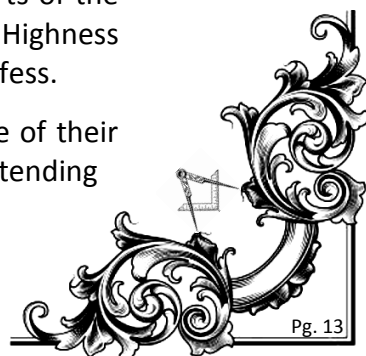
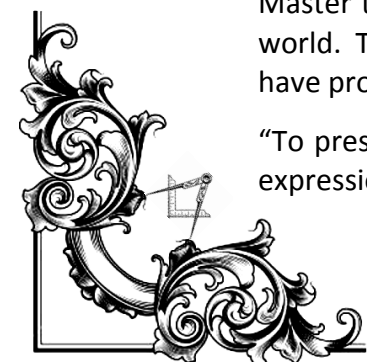
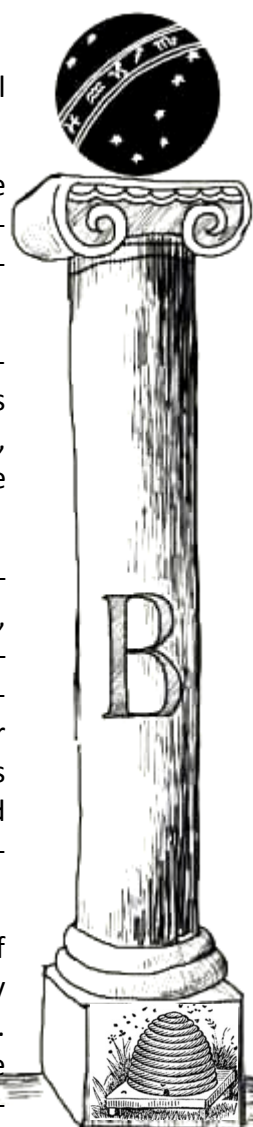
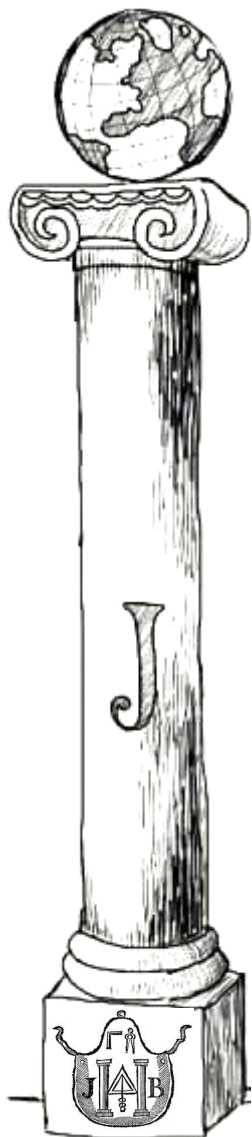
“Most Worshipful Sir, — We, a Committee of the Brethren associated for the purpose of presenting a votive offering to their Grand Master, respectfully approach your Royal Highness to express the feelings, and to fulfil the wishes of the great body of Masons whom we represent.

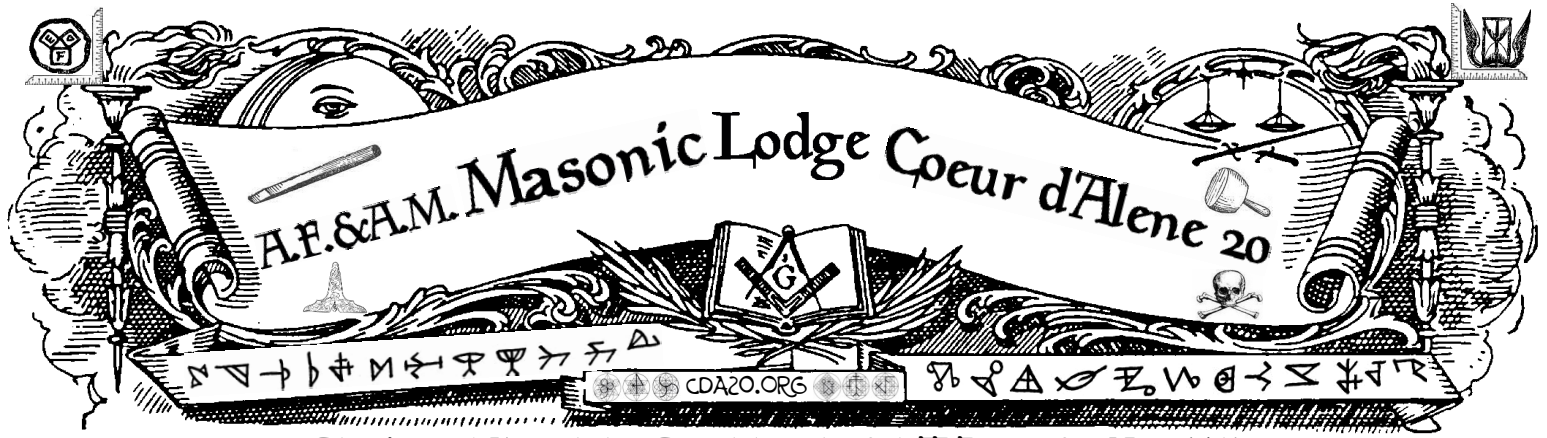
“For them, Sir, and for ourselves, we fervently acknowledge the deep debt of gratitude due to your Royal Highness from the Craft of England. We do honor to ourselves in thus publicly proclaiming the truth and the boast, that the Illustrious Prince who, during the twenty-five years now rolled by, has ruled the Order - by its own free choice, has rendered to Masonry services unparalleled in its history.

“For the high social rank which the Fraternity now holds in this country — for the absolute exclusion from our peaceful temple of those divisions, religious and political, by which men are elsewhere distracted — for our increased and increasing prosperity, we feel and we glory in the recollection how much we owe to your Royal Highness. The events of the last quarter of a century afford a bright example to other countries and to future times, how perfectly, under a wise, benevolent, and zealous ruler, the freedom of our institutions may consist with the preservation of union and discipline, the happiness of our Members, and the promotion of all those high interests which are the great objects of Freemasonry.

“In testimony of the deep sense which we and our brother subscribers entertain of the obligations which we owe in common with every Member of the Order, we pray your Royal Highness to be pleased to accept the work of art which is now before us. It will, we are persuaded, derive value in your Royal Highness’s estimation from the circumstance, that in this offering of gratitude, Masons of all ranks, and in all countries, have concurred. Towards this grateful object, contributions have spontaneously flown from Brethren far and near; as Lodges, and as individuals, from the Pro-Grand Master to the Entered Apprentice, from the British Isles to the furthest parts of the world. The sentiments which the Brethren entertain toward your Royal Highness have proved to be as universal as the principles which they are taught to profess.

“To preserve some record of these sentiments, and the occasion and mode of their expression, we have embodied, in print, a statement of the circumstances attending





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this Offering. And we further pray your Royal Highness to accept this copy of the little volume, from which the future historian may learn how strong and how just are the feelings by which we are animated towards our Illustrious Grand Master.

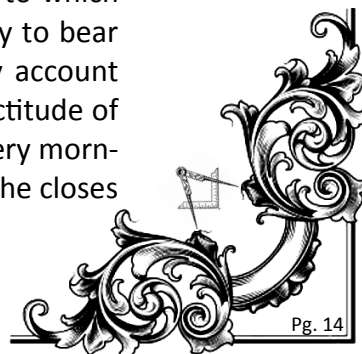
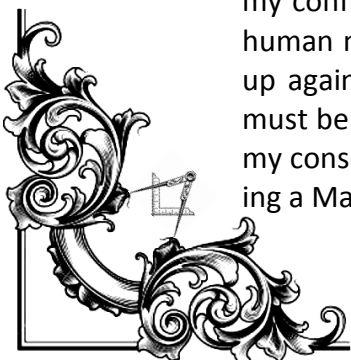
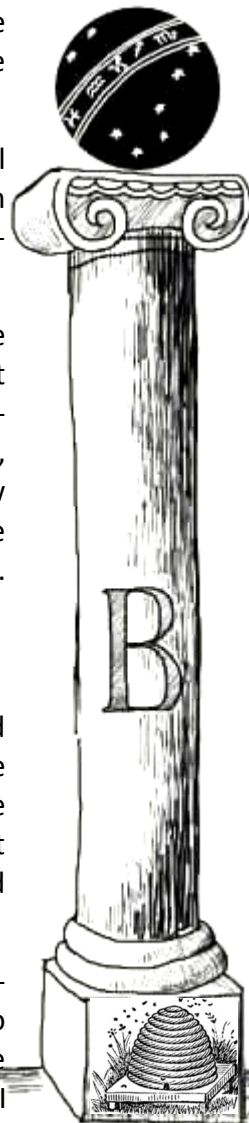
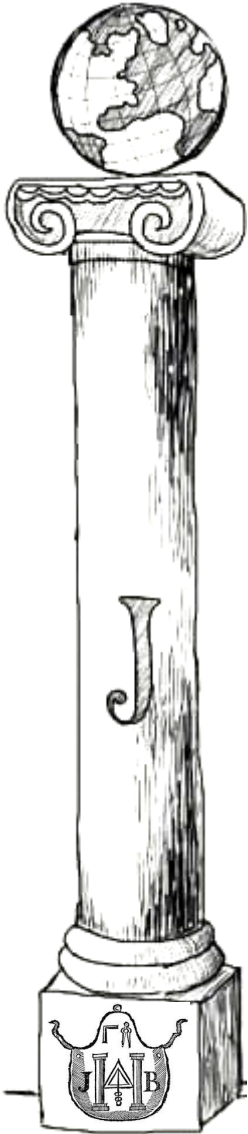
“Finally, and in the heartfelt consciousness that in this prayer every good Mason will unite, we supplicate the Great Architect of the Universe, that the favors of Heaven may be continued to him who has so well deserved them: and that your Royal Highness may long rule in health and happiness over a grateful and united Brotherhood.”

“The offering was raised upon an elevation behind the Chair, and covered with white cloth; the recess in which it was placed was covered with purple cloth, and a vast body of light was thrown upon the spot. When his Lordship presented the little volume descriptive of the offering, to his Royal Highness, Brothers Crucefix and Norris, who supported the drapery, suddenly withdrew it, and the Offering burst into view amidst general approbation. Lord John Churchill was much affected while reading the Address, and the honored object of its acceptance betrayed considerable emotion. The Committee were ranged behind the Chair so as to face the company.

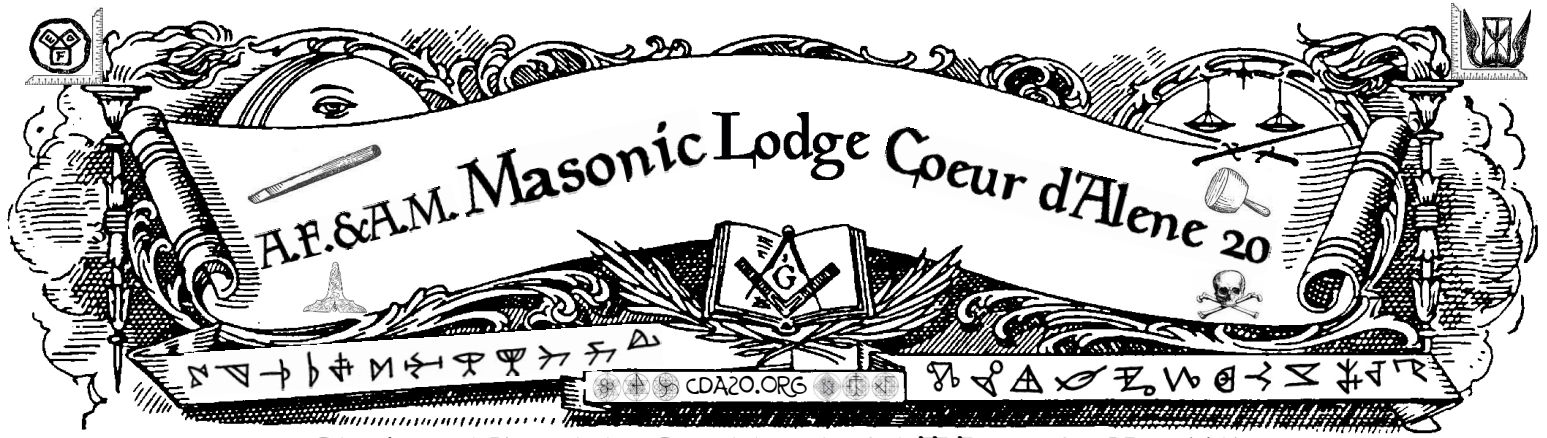
**“After the applause had subsided. His Royal Highness rose and spoke as follows:**

“Brother R. W. Deputy Grand Master, Provincial Grand Masters, Officers of the Grand Lodge, and Brethren, — I rise under feelings of intense interest, and, if I may use the expression, amid a warfare of feelings, to utter my humble and sincere thanks for the kindness evinced to me on the present occasion. It is not the trifle that is offered, but the sensation that it has produced, which affects me; it is of a mingled nature, and consequently very difficult to express.”

“Surrounded by so many faces, seeing so many kind friends, and yet marking vacancies, crowded as the tables are, which cast a shade upon thought, it is impossible to feel very lively, or that I should express myself as I ought. You have kindly noticed the past period of twenty-five years — aye, to me twenty-five years of great anxiety — I have presided over you with fidelity, yet sometimes with feelings of oppression. Your kindness has given vigor, and I feel renovated; and from that kindness I have derived my confidence. In my career I have met with many and severe trials, trials to which human nature ought to be exposed, and which, as a Mason, it was my duty to bear up against. I have observed many a kind head has been laid low, and my account must be rendered up. On the mercy of God I have ever relied, and in the rectitude of my conscience I shall lay my head down in peace. That is a subject which every morning a Mason ought to call to mind when he supplicates his Maker, and when he closes







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his eyes.”

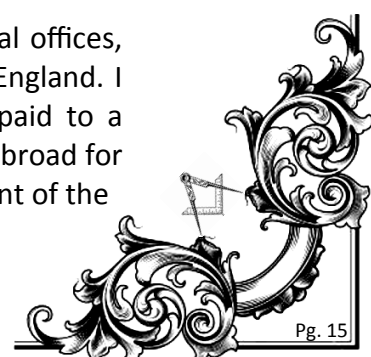
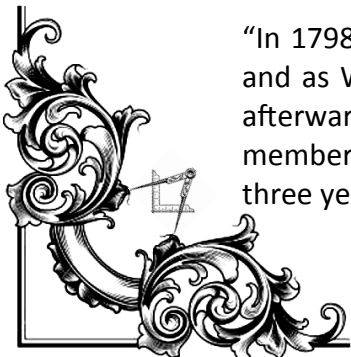
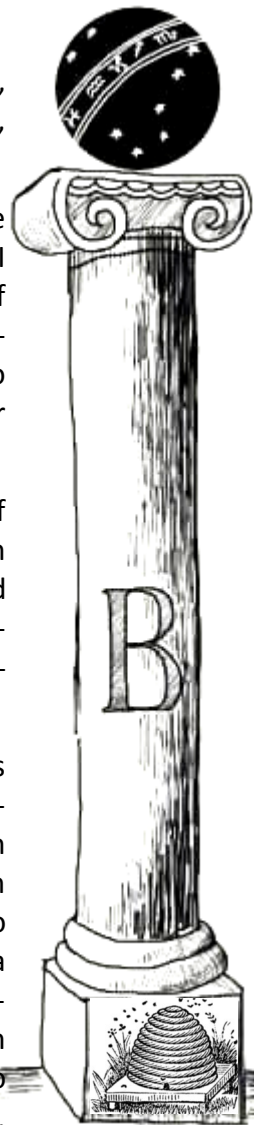
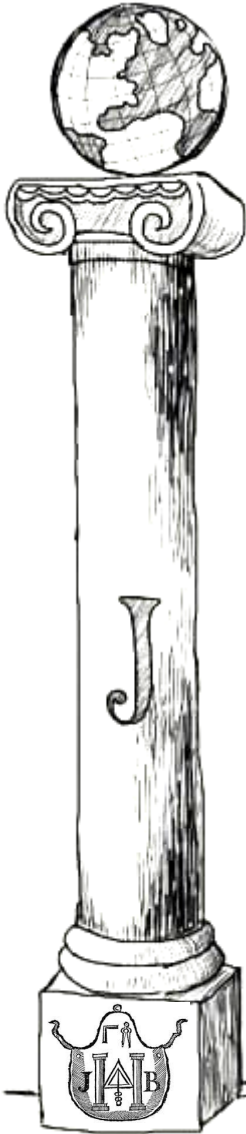
“When the profane, who do not know our mysteries, are carried away by prejudice, and do not acknowledge the value of our Society, let them, by our conduct, learn, that a good Mason is a good moral man, and as such will not trifle with his obligation.

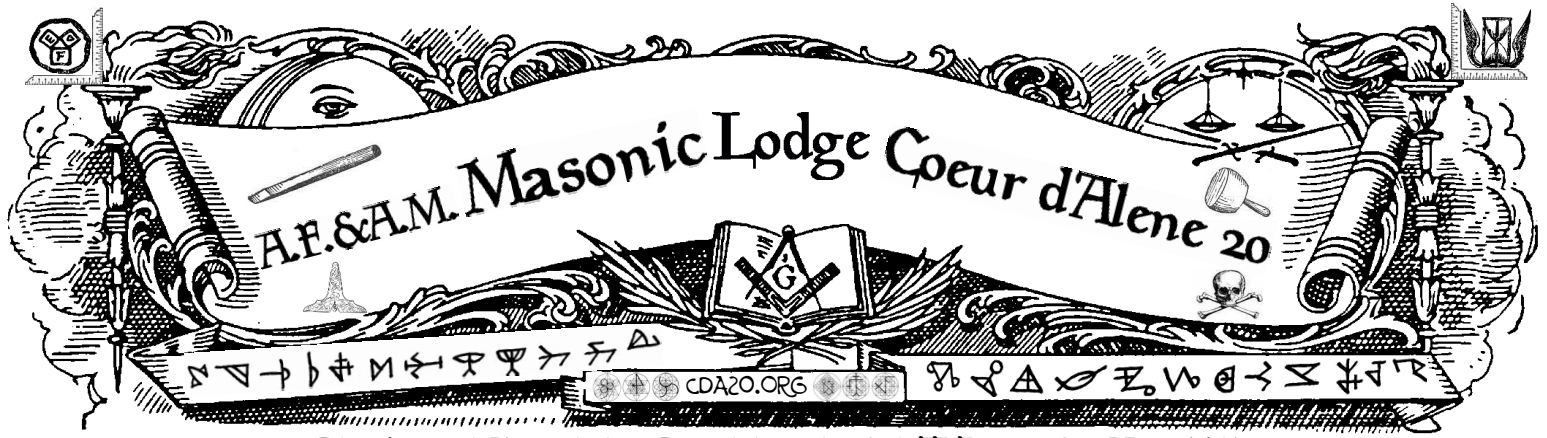
“The principles of morality I am bound to enforce, and did I not, I should betray the confidence you repose in me. For myself, I want no compliment, no favor. Deeply as I am indebted to the Brethren, yet I could not receive a compliment out of the fund of the Grand Lodge. Twice I have refused that compliment because that is a public property, to be appropriated to Masonic matters only, and it would be highly incorrect to encroach upon it in any other way; and if one farthing of it is touched for any other purpose than that of charity, you would be wanting in your duty.

“The Brethren then listened to me, and the matter dropped. I however, stated, that if at some future period a spontaneous and united offer of a compliment, not taken from the public fund, was decided upon, after twenty-five years of service, I should not object. The Duke of Sussex, in accepting this offering, cannot be accused of robbing the poor Mason of a single penny. Arriving at the twenty-fifth year of my presidency, it is a warning to me how I am placed.”

“My duty as your G. M. is to take care that no political or religious question intrudes itself; and had I thought that in presenting this Tribute any political feeling had influenced the Brethren, I can only say that then the Grand Master would not have been gratified. Our object is unanimity, and we can find a center of unanimity unknown elsewhere. I recollect twenty-five years ago, at a meeting in many respects similar to the present, a magnificent Jewel (by voluntary vote) was presented to the Earl Moira previous to his journey to India. I had the honor to preside, and I remember the powerful and beautiful appeal which that excellent Brother made on the occasion. I am now sixty-six years of age — I say this without regret — the true Mason ought to think that the first day of his birth is but a step on his way to the final close of life. When I tell you that I have completed forty years of a Masonic life— there may be older Masons — but that is a pretty good specimen of my attachment to the Order.”

“In 1798, I entered Masonry in a Lodge at Berlin, and there I served several offices, and as Warden was a representative of the Lodge in the Grand Lodge of England. I afterwards was acknowledged and received with the usual compliment paid to a member of the Royal Family, by being appointed a Past G. W. I again went abroad for three years, and on my return joined various Lodges; and upon the retirement of the





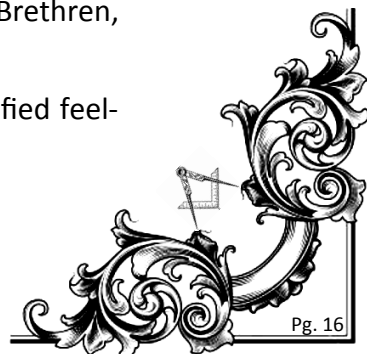
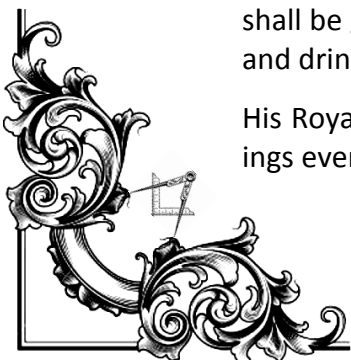
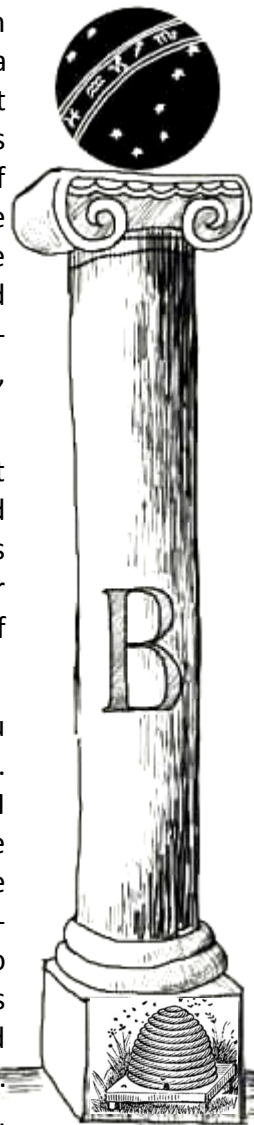
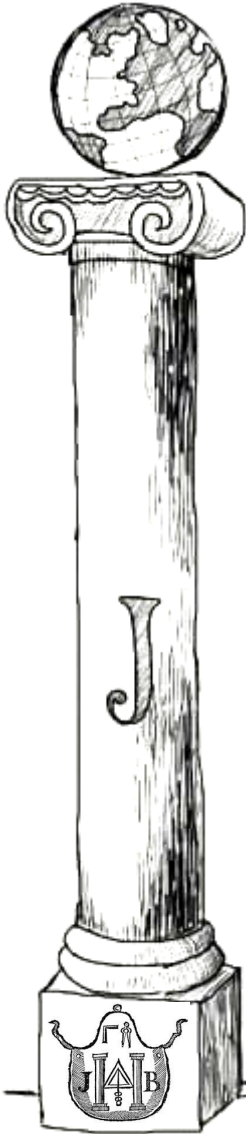
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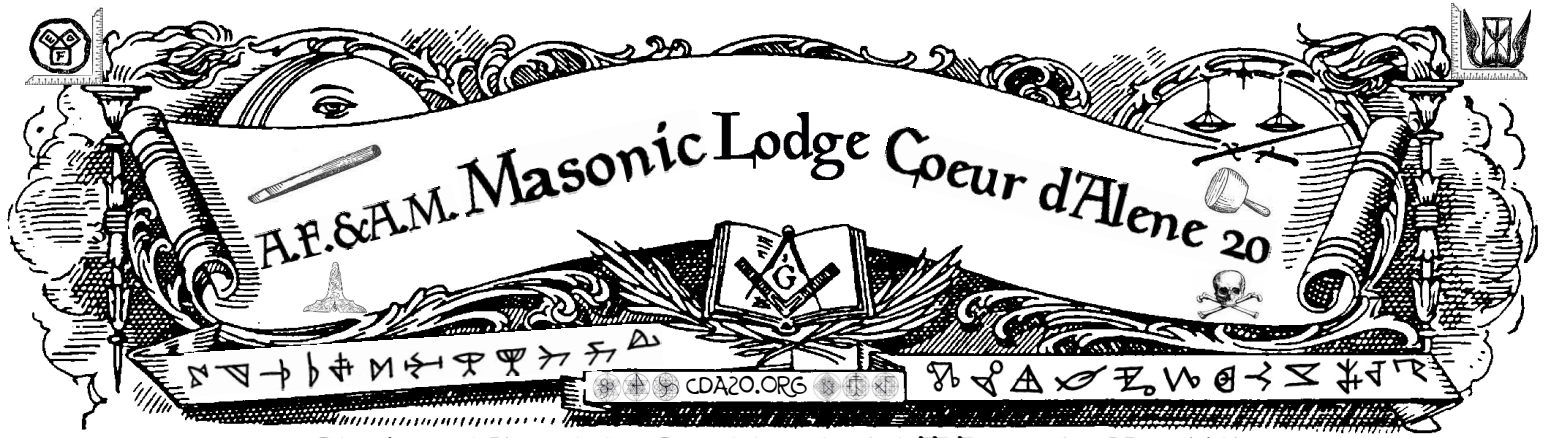
Prince Regent, who became Patron of the Order, I was elected Grand Master. An epoch of considerable interest intervened, and I became charged, in 1813-14, with a most important mission — the Union of the two London Societies. My most excellent Brother the Duke of Kent accepted the title of Grand Master of the Athol Masons, as they were denominated; I was the Grand Master of those called the Prince of Wales's. In three months we carried the union of the two societies, and I had the happiness of presiding over the united fraternity. This I consider to have been the happiest event of my life. It brought all Masons upon the Level and Square, and showed the world at large, that the differences of common life did not exist in Masonry; and it showed to Masons by a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether, what great good might be effected."

"I have endeavored all through my Masonic career to bring into Masonry the great fact, that from the highest to the lowest, all should feel convinced that the one could not exist without the other. Every Mason owes respect to the recognized institutions of society; and the higher his station, the more is required from him. The great power of Masonry is the example — the chain extends from the highest to the lowest, and if one link shall break, the whole is endangered."

"I recommend to you, order, regularity, and observance of Masonic duties. If you differ with any Brother, never attribute sinister motives to him with whom you differ. These are the principles, Brethren, which I hope to enforce; and many a time have I checked myself from too marked an expression, thinking that a Brother might not be aware of his position, and we have argued the matter in private. I trust in this, the twenty-fifth year of my Presidency, I may not be considered saying too much by declaring what I have always done. I am grateful for the kindness and affection hitherto shown, and that my government, as far as it may be so considered, is one of kindness and confidence. I once again enjoin the observance of the Laws, which are founded upon Equity, and not Special Pleading. Equity is our principle — Honor our guide. I gave full scope to my feelings in Grand Lodge, and have forgotten all that passed, except those of good will with which I left it, and assure the Brethren, that as long as my services are at my own command, the Grand Lodge may claim them; but they shall be given honestly, fearlessly, and faithfully. Again I sincerely thank the Brethren, and drink good health to all."

His Royal Highness resumed his seat amidst the warmest exhibition of gratified feelings ever witnessed in Freemasons Hall.





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