

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,

The Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England, Bro. JOHN HERVEY 29^o of the Spurious "ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF MASONRY," has issued a circular with regard to a Spurious Grand Lodge which existed in London, and held Meetings at Stratford, in Essex, in the year 1859, under the name of the "Rite of Memphis."

We beg to inform you, and the members of your Lodge, that the "Ancient and Primitive Rite of Masonry" has not, and never had, any connection whatever with the said SPURIOUS body which we believe constituted themselves a rival Grand Lodge of Craft Masonry to that of England. The "Ancient and Primitive Rite of Masonry," on the contrary, admits none but Master Masons of good standing and repute under the Constitutional Grand Lodges of Craft Masonry, and repudiated at its establishment in 1866, all pretensions to Symbolic Masonry, upon which it merely forms a valuable system of lectures. Its fees are moderate, and strictly devoted to purely Masonic charitable purposes. It gives or confers all the 33 degrees of the "Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite," and in addition, all the higher degrees of Misraim and Memphis, but does not confer or claim any power over Craft Masonry—or degrees below the 4th. In this harmonious operation it has the advantage of the Spurious Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, to which many members of Grand Lodge belong, as that system claims dominion over Craft Masonry under fraudulent Statutes, to which the signature of Frederick the Great was forged in 1802.

The "Ancient and Primitive Rite" was cumulated and first promulgated in the year 1866, by His Excellency Marshal MAGNAN, and the Grand Orient of France, whilst the Spurious Grand Lodge of Memphis was anathematized in 1859, consequently you will see that the circular issued by the Grand Secretary cannot in any way apply to this very sublime Rite, which admits only those who are *Legal Craft Masons*, and believe in a God and the immortality of the soul.

The illegal Rite of Memphis, alluded to in the circular, we believe does not now exist, and therefore Brother John Hervey is being made the instrument of designing members of the Spurious Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, (to which he has sworn obedience,) to injure by implication a better and more tolerant Rite, the two being in precisely the same position as regards Grand Lodge laws.

We beg, in bringing this matter before your Lodge, that you will cause a strict investigation to be made with respect to our Order; for we are sure that the more it is examined, the more it will be appreciated; and that it will result in your passing unanimously a vote of censure upon this attempt to injure the sublime principles of the ancient institution of Craft Masonry, by associating therewith the quarrels of these "Holy Emperors" of the Spurious "Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite," with others better than their own, of which they know nothing. Why is the Hindoo, the Parsee, the Mahommedan, the Trinitarian, and Unitarian Christian to be denied equal privileges in high-grade Freemasonry?

Yours truly and fraternally

W. H. HUGHES, 30^o,

Hon. Secretary to the Palatine Chapter of Lancashire of the
Ancient and Primitive Rite of Masonry.