

When Selif rose to his feet the same officer confronted him again, asking the same question: "Whom art thou?"

"We are," said Selif, the servant of the King of Heseec. His people have risen against him and would have slain him and he hath fled into the desert, and I fear hath perished there; and we are all that cleave to him."

"If ye are servants of King Shedad," said the officer, "and seek him your search is ended, for he is here."

How doth the King?" asked Selif eagerly.

"It is well with him," said the officer.

"Is he in the hand of a friend or is he a prisoner in the hand of his enemy?"

"The King of Heseec," said the officer, sitteth at the table of Belkis, the Queen of Saba."

(To be continued.)

THE MYSTERIES OF FREEMASONRY.

Showing from the Origin, Nature and Object of the Rites and Ceremonies of Remote Antiquity, their Identity with the Order of Modern Free-Masonry.

COMPILED FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES BY R. W. BRO. OTTO KLOTZ.

"If circumstances lead me, I will find
Where Truth is hid, though it were hid indeed
Within the centre. —SHAKESPEARE.

(Continued.)

THE CABIRIA OF SAMOTHRACE AND THE SOCIETY OF THE ESSENES.

The three principal figures of the Egyptian ceremonial viz:—those Osiris of Isis and Anubis were carried to Berytus in Phoenicia and thence into several islands in the Ægean sea. Their worship became very famous, especially in Lemnos, and in the island of Samothrace which lies very near it. They were called there the Cabiri which is Phoenician, was as much used in Egypt as in Phoenicia itself; which is a standing proof of the mixture of the Phoenician terms with the Egyptian language, if the ground of both be not exactly the same.

The Cabiri were probably priests or deified heroes, venerated by the ancients as the authors or interpreters of religion, and the founders of human society and civilization. In Egypt, their temple was never entered by any but the priests. In Phoenicia and Rome (where they had an altar in the Circus Maximus), and in other countries of Europe and Asia, traces of their worship are to be found. The Mysteries of Egypt, Greece and Hindostan bear a great similarity with those of the Cabiri. Their rites were celebrated in the obscurity of the night and with the most profound secrecy. Their mode of initiation was almost identical with that of Eleusis, with this difference that the purification ceremony in the cabiric mysteries was by water and blood while in the Eleusinian Mysteries by fire, air and water, and that at the initiation into the former the walls of the apartment were clothed with black drapery, and that everywhere appeared the symbols of decay and of death. Terrible phantoms, grim and ghostly passed and re-passed, before the candidate, a bier rose up at his feet on which was a coffin and in the coffin a dead body! The pilgrimage of gloom how-