

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 SECRET ORDER OF PYTHAGORAS.

Pythagoras was born at Samos, about 584 B. C., and being possessed of an inquiring mind, a philosophical spirit and an unquenchable thirst for wisdom, he left his native place in pursuit of science and visited those countries which were celebrated for being inhabited by men of superior intellect and learning.

He spent considerable time in Phœnicia, where he was initiated into the Cabirian Mysteries. He visited various parts of Syria and also India, to become acquainted with the religious doctrines and usages of those countries, and particularly with those of the Essenes. In Egypt he was initiated into the Mysteries of Isis and became acquainted with all the learning of that remarkable people. From Egypt he travelled into India, to acquaint himself with the wisdom of the Gymnosophists, visiting on his way the Magi and Chaldean sages. At Crete, the priests of Cybele took him to the cavern of Ida, here he met Epimenides, by whom he was initiated into the sacred Mysteries of the Greeks. From Crete he went to Sparta and Elis, and thence to Phlius and to Samos, his native place.

Having thus acquired all the wisdom of his age and being master of the science of all countries, he established a school at Samos, where in imitation of the Egyptians he taught his doctrines in a symbolical form.

His teaching seemed divine oracles, and the sacred obscurity in which he veiled them, attracted great numbers of disciples. But as his ideas embraced politics, the structure of society and the science of government, as well as religion and philosophy, and desiring probably to apply his theories to a practical result, he left Samos and established himself at Crotona, in Magna Græcia, then a Grecian Colony in Italy, now a city in the Bay of Tarentum in Italy.

Here he established his sacred brotherhood which was organized after the ideal, and in harmony with those political principles, which he wished to see realized in all civilized institutions. It was an aristocratic republic, although all who became members united their property in one common stock for the good of the whole. The most influential citizens of Crotona were numbered among its members.

The object of this society being mutual aid, social communion, intellectual cultivation and social and personal progress. The system of education was admirable. The society at Crotona, however, was discontinued after some time, but its members dispersed and carried with them the ideas of the Pythagorean brotherhood into all lands, where societies upon those principles were numerous established and flourished through many ages.

Pythagoras' method of instruction, formed upon the Egyptian model, was *exoteric* and *esoteric*, that is *public* and *private*. Those auditors who attended his public lectures did not properly belong to his school, but