

the pot of roses" by the traditional signification of the flower.

The Cross, surmounted by a circle, as amongst the Egyptians, or enclosed in a circle, as amongst the Gauls, used to symbolize Time, whose passing is rendered observable by the seasons. The chief of these are spring and autumn, birth and death, beginning and end.

At these two periods the sign of the Cross is made in space by the passage of the sun across the equator. These are the equinoxes. The first celebrated with joy, the second with gravity and sadness. All Saints Day—the Festival of the departed—the lessons to be learned from the falling of the leaves—these form the counterpart of Palm Sunday, Easter and Rogation day.

The allegorical color of the Cross is red, in Masonry, as in the outside world—witness the ribbon of the cross of honor. It is the color of the sun and of the hearth-side fire.

Masonry is of three colors. BLUE in its first part, the color of the earth's horizon, for Masonry enfolds the whole world in its embrace. RED in the second division, which brings us to the source of Life and Light, of which Masons call themselves the children. WHITE in its last part consecrated to the natural sciences, where it adopts the color of the air which enwraps the universe.

From the Rose and the Cross has been derived the title of the Order of the Knights of Rose Croix.

Just as the equinoctial cross is made by the apparent movement of the sun from north to south, together with the steady march of the earth from east to west, so the Rose Croix degree arises from the alternate movements of the masses of mankind from east to west, and from north to south, which constitute the great events and the great revolutions of history.

In the fourth century, Rome declined in the west, Constantinople

rose in the east, with the cross for its symbol.

In the sixth century, another symbol, the Crescent, united two races, the Turks and the Arabs, who led back the course of empire from east to west.

In the eighth century, the Mahometans were defeated at Poitiers, by Charles Martel, and since then the Arab race has steadily retrograded. The Turks on the contrary grew in influence. The west struggles with them in the Crusades.

Islamism spreads in Asia, but Europe preserves the Cross. Latins, Greeks, and last of all, the Slavs defend the Cross against the Crescent.

The Crusades had given birth to many orders of chivalry. Alongside of the religious and military orders of the Temple, Malta, and the Teutonic Knights, was formed another composed of men who had brought back with them from their Eastern travels, scientific knowledge and a spirit of scientific investigation.

Devoted to the study of nature, and opposed to the mysticism of the middle ages, they were silent and discreet. Descended from Knights, and Knights themselves, they founded the Order of Rose Croix. As the alchemists, astrologers, and necromancers, they were supposed to be in search of the philosophers stone, the quadrature of the circle, and the elixir of long life. They were represented as clothed in fantastic garb, bending over furnaces and retorts, and surrounded by strange objects.

To these students of natural science it is that we owe that mysterious inscription, which has established itself, we know not how, upon the Cross: I.N.R.I. It cannot mean "Jesus of Nazareth, the King (Rex) of the Jews." Since Jesus never was king. The rude wit of an executioner's assistant, cannot have served as the foundation of the Great King's title.

But inscriptions, especially those which are formed of monograms, always conceal anxieties or principles.