

No such picture presented itself just then. Nothing but a melancholy, reproachful face, and a pained wondering gaze—of the man I had loved beyond all others, and of the brother who had so shamefully deceived me.

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 FREEMASONRY, COMPILED FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES.

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

—SHAKESPEARE.

INTRODUCTION.

The original object of the secret rites of Freemasonry has been a subject of enquiry for upwards of six hundred years, and the enigma seems not to have been satisfactorily solved. The initiated, as well as those without the pale of the Order, are with few exceptions equally ignorant of their derivation and import.

The object of this paper is to endeavour to show the origin of the mysteries, ceremonies and symbols of the Masonic Fraternity, by pointing out its intimate connection and similitude to the most ancient institutions of which there is any record.

In a search for that origin, the enquirer soon finds that the general history of the world affords him but a very limited aid; that the Masonic history is also almost entirely silent on that subject, and that even tradition with all its vagueness will not supply the material desired; the chain of connection becomes lost, blanks and vacuities frequently appear, and the only means left him are those afforded by *comparison*. By comparisons man will be enabled to find relation, similarity and affinity, existing between societies and bodies; these comparisons will lead him to draw conclusions, which if based upon good, sound, common sense, will most invariably reward him with satisfaction; in particular if during such enquiries his mind has been freed from all prejudices, either social, political or religious.

In pursuance of this course, it becomes necessary to take a transient view of the dogmas and customs of Egypt in the remotest period of its history; for it appears evident that that country was the salient point from which the religious observances of the ancient world commenced.

And after having taken a view of the dogmas and customs of Egypt, we will require to examine those of other nations and countries, in particular the Mysteries of Eleusis, of Phœnicia, of the Cabiri, of the Druids and of Pythagoras, and we will find that the usages and customs of Freemasons, their signs and symbols and their secret rites, bear