

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

[Continued.]

THE SECRET SOCIETIES OF ANCIENT SCANDINAVIA.

About fifty years ago before the Christian era, the Roman common wealth had arrived at the summit of its power; its last formidable enemy, Mithridates, had fled before the victorious army of Pompey and sought refuge and new means of resistance in the forests of Scythia. He succeeded in raising a large force, but the men, being ill armed and without discipline, were forced to yield to the genius of Pompey, and some of them were compelled to serve in the victorious army. Of this number was one named *Siggo*, who afterwards became known as *Odin*, the great Mystagogo of the North.

The degrading position he was obliged to occupy stung him to the depth of his soul; he fled into the wilderness, the idea of revenge being his supreme thought. He ran from nation to nation, exciting the people by his wondrous eloquence and the indefatigable zest with which he propagated the religion of which he now claimed to be the minister. He assumed the name of *Odin*, who was the supreme god of the Teutonic nation.

Siggo or *Odin* was the chief of the *Esir*, whose country must have been between the Pontus Euxinus and the Caspian Sea. Their principal city was *Asgard*.

Odin, having united under his banner the youth of the neighboring nations, marched towards the north and west of Europe, subduing all the people he found in his passage and giving them to one of his sons. After having settled his government, he directed his course towards Scandinavia, passing through Cimbria, now Holstein and Jutland.—These provinces made him no resistance. He passed to Funen, founded the city of Odensee, and extended his power to all the north. He subdued the rest of Denmark, passed into Sweden, which he acquired without difficulty, and established at *Sigtuna* (a city now destroyed situate near the present city of Stockholm) a supreme council composed of twelve judges or pontiffs. Their business was to watch over the public weal, to distribute justice to the people, to preside over the new worship and instruct the people therein, and to preserve faithfully the religious secrets which *Odin* had deposited among them. He established there the *sacred mysteries*, by the influence of which Scandinavia began to live a new life, emerge from obscurity, and gained a name and place in history.

Odin resembled in many particulars *Orpheus* the Thracian; like him, *Odin* is described as the most persuasive of men, nothing could resist the force of his words. He was also a great poet, the prince of magicians, and the inventor of the runic characters (an alphabet of sixteen letters). *Odin*, after having finished his glorious achievements, and feeling his end drawing near, assembled his friends, in whose presence