

of Scotland should otherwise direct. The matter is now for consideration of Great Priory. I do not myself approve of any coercive measure being adopted, while circumstances may hereafter occur to induce them to think differently and change their decision.

ORIGIN OF MASONRY AND THE TEMPLAR ORDER.

Before entering on the subject of the all-absorbing question of a change in our organization, which was placed in the hands of a committee appointed by Great Priory, and will be reported upon in the course of these Proceedings, I would wish to draw your particular attention, and claim your patience, to an explanation of that part of my Allocation read at our meeting of last year, in which I affirmed that the "Ancient Builders" or "Masons," who devoted their exclusive attention to the erection of sacred edifices, as also the confraternities of "Military Monks," the chief of these being the "Hospitaliers of St. John," and the "Templars," had the same origin; viz.: from the "Benedictine" Order of Monks, of the early ages of the Christian dispensation, and who had based all their religious doctrines on the "Divine Mysteries" they taught.

It becomes necessary for a right understanding of the subject, to give you a brief summary of such records as exist, premising that I have pursued *quite* a different track from the usual "sheep walk" information available.

THE MYSTERIES.

The Divine Mysteries, as a system, are entirely distinct from everything else that has at the present day the name of Masonry. They are the root out of which has sprung much of what is seen, but the meaning of which is perverted and lost.

To understand the Templar system, as connected with Masonry, in the British Dominions, it must be looked at from quite another standpoint than that of "Free and Accepted Masonry" of the present day.

The real and true meaning of "Spiritual,"—or speculative Masonry, is widely different from its commonly accepted definition of the term and this is of much importance to a proper knowledge of the subject.

The words "Mason" and "Masonry," according to the construction put upon them by the wise and devout of former times, who, looking to its true and sacred signification, never contemplated its being applied or having reference to edifices, building material works, or anything of that kind whatever. The words are claimed to be cor-

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