

words, &c. Admit all this—but no one can date the period at which Freemasonry first sprung into existence. But what matters it? As a learned brother remarks: "We defy the scoffer to point to the age in which Freemasonry did not exist." So be it—but what difference? A few centuries back and Columbus had not discovered America—is the Western Hemisphere for that reason to be scoffed at by her sister of the Eastern sphere? The fact remains the same—age, though venerated for his hoary hair, is not privileged to abuse youth for his stalwart form, strong arms, and manly limbs; but on this question we will not enter. To fight for trifles is frivolous, to die in battles for honor and virtue is noble. So mote it be.

We waive then the theory as conveyed by tradition regarding "Our First Grand Master K.: S.:" We even cast aside the beautiful legend regarding our Patron St. Albans; we do not search for, or care from what source our Order sprang. Is it a matter of such vast importance to us whether a Hebrew King was our first G.: M.: or not? The untutored E.: A.: may view all our traditions as facts, while the earnest searcher after truth looks upon them as mere romances, within and around which are interwoven the sacred principles and holy tenets of the Fraternity. These are minor points—Freemasonry rests upon a nobler basis—her landmarks are Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth; her wisdom is exemplified by Faith, Hope and Charity; her strength by Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice and her Beauty by Charity and a belief in T.: G.: A.: O.: T.: U.:—Modern Freemasonry then is simply a noble system of morality, based upon the common brotherhood of man and the great fatherhood of God.

THE ORDER OF THE RED CROSS OF ROME AND CONSTANTINE.

We have received through the courtesy of our Ill. Bro. † Col. W. J. B. McLeod Moore, 33°, a little book containing the General Statutes of the Imperial, Ecclesiastical and Military Order of the Knights of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, and as this branch of Freemasonry is about being established in this country, we deem it advisable to give our Brethren a general idea of these ancient and chivalric grades. We find from this book that at the union of the two Grand Lodges of England, the Grand Mastership of the Order was held by the Duke of Sussex, that these Lodges were at that time recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England. From 1813 to 1837, the Order was in a flourishing condition, but it after that period languished "until May, 1865, when a few members assembled, and having reconstituted the Grand Council, and elected the Honorable Sir Knight William Henry White, Past Grand Chancellor, as Grand Sovereign, proceeded to re-establish the Order upon a working basis. Upon the death of Sir Knight White, in April, 1866, the members unani-