

# THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN,

AND  
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## DOES FREEMASONRY OWE ITS PRESENT EXISTENCE TO CHRISTIAN MASONS ALONE?

To the Editor of THE CRAFTSMAN.

MY DEAR EDITOR AND R. W. BRO.—  
In this present article, I shall endeavor to prove by history and facts that Freemasonry does not owe its present existence to Christian Masons alone, as Bro. Moore in your April number asserts.

Taking the sentence literally one might infer that Bro. Moore holds that Freemasonry has had more than one existence, since a "present" existence implies a "past" existence, and may also imply a "future" existence; we know of neither, in speaking of a system as that of Freemasonry, but we speak of a part and of a present form of the system of Freemasonry.

The Ethnograph in his endeavor to trace the origin of a certain people, cannot confine his researches to one particular migration of a certain race; he has to enquire into and compare the various migrations of different races and peoples that in any way may be considered connected with the subject of his research. The Arians did not only migrate west, they also went east, north, and south, and they met and mixed with the Fins, the Semites, the Turanians, and other races and peoples. Travel, commerce, wars and conquests have not only caused an extensive mixture of blood of different peoples, but also customs, ceremonies, language, arts, sciences and mysteries have become amalgamated thereby. And while it

is impossible for the Ethnograph to find in any civilized country, or even in a semi-civilized country, any race of men pure and unmixed with any other blood, so it is equally impossible to trace art, science, mystery, ceremony or custom in any civilized community to any particular people exclusively. Therefore, in the endeavor to trace an unbroken chain of connection between Freemasonry as known and practised to-day, and its cradle, the Egyptian mysteries, we necessarily have to take into account the numerous branches of that old stock, the Isianic mysteries, and the amalgamations which have taken place between those branches.

In the preceding article the relation existing between at least several of the ancient mysteries has been shown. I shall therefore not repeat the same. I hold that it is fully proved by history that to the Phœnicians and to the Ionians we, as Freemasons, are indebted for having brought westward both operative and speculative Masonry. Phœnician and Ionian commerce and navigation brought architecture, sciences, and the mysteries to Rome. It is even probable that through the Phœnicians the Druids were brought to Britain. At Rome, Numa Pompilius, second King of Rome, who reigned from 714 to 672 B.C., particularly patronized the Phœnician and Greek builders. Under him the celebrated *collegia fabrorum* and *collegia artificum* were founded,