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entered into his six hundredth year; aboard which, he and his three sons and four wives embarked, with the living cargo of birds and animals. By God's direction they were saved, whilst the flood destroyed all the rest of mankind for their profanity and unbelief, A.M. 1656; B. C. 2348.

From these four Grand Officers the whole race of mankind are descended.

After the ark rested on Mount Ararat they journeyed towards the west, to the land of Shinar, and dwelt there together as Noachidee, or the sons of Noah, and communicated to their offspring, who were all of one language and speech, the secrets of Geometry and the Arts and Sciences they had preserved. And 101 years after the flood, when Peley was born, Father Noah partitioned the earth among them, and ordered them to disperse and take possession of their several allotments; this they did not like to do, but resolved to still continue as one family, fearing the consequences of separation.

Nimrod (the meaning of which word is rebel), grandson of Ham, was at the head of those who did not wish to separate; or if they must do so, they would build a city and a tower, by which to transmit their memorial to all ages; this they commenced to do under him as Grand Master, on the banks of the Tygris, in the fertile valley of Shinar. But their vanity provoked the Grand Master of the Universe to confound their design, by confounding their lip or speech; hence the city and tower were called Babel (which means confusion).

Thus, in the year of the world 1810, or 154 years after the flood, and 53 years after they had commenced to build, they were compelled to desist, and to disperse, as had been commanded by Noah.

They went off east, west, north, and south, and from Shinar the Science and Arts were carried to the most distant parts of the earth, notwithstanding the confusion of dialects; that, indeed, gave rise to the Mason's faculty and universal practice of conversing without speaking, and of knowing each other by signs and tokens.

Having thus traced Masonry to the building of the Tower and City of Babel, time would not permit me, even if I had the capacity to trace it into the many countries into which it was carried by the posterity of Noah; suffice it to say, that it can be distinctly traced in every land, except in the south and west of Africa, and except also any just accounts of the fair and gallant posterity of Noah's eldest son, Japheth, whose posterity first replenished old Scythia, from Norway eastward to America, nor of those in Italy, Greece, Gaul, Germany, Britain, &c. Passing over this intermediate time, we find perpetuated in Exodus xxxv. the name of that great Master Mason, Bezaleel, who was filled with the Spirit of God, in "wisdom and understanding," and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to devise curious