

Prior, the order being devoted to the original Hospitaller professions—relief to the sick and injured, and the alleviation of the sufferings of the human race, with aid to the wounded in war.

XIII. The Templars of England, it has been asserted, are derived from the "Baldwin" Encampment of Bristol—now Preceptory—which with two others, the "Observance" of London, and "Antiquity" of Bath, appear on the English Templar Calendar as from "Time immemorial," claiming to have been established in the early days of the genuine order, but this claim really means that they had a separate warrant of existence before the re-organization by H. R. H. the Duke of Kent as Grand Patron in 1804-7. The very name Encampment contradicts the assertion, all the old Templar houses were called Preceptories and sometimes Pories, after places never from persons. Although these Encampments appear to be the oldest in England they cannot show a greater antiquity than the last century from the high grade Masonic system of Continental Europe. They conferred "seven" degrees, viz: 1. Masonic Knights Templar—2. Knights of St. John of Jerusalem—3. Knights of Rhodes—4. Knights of Malta—these three latter are the same order at different periods of its history,—5. Knights of Palestine or the "Red Cross" of the "Constantinian Order of St. George," not the pagan red cross of Babylon—6. Knights of the Rosy Crucis, and 7. The Kadosh, the "*Rose Croix de Herodem*," was the step above the Templar installation, teaching in an allegorical form the truths of Christianity, followed by the "Kadosh" connected with the history of the persecution and dissolution of the old Templar order.

XIV. The Scottish Templars are said to spring from the ancient Priory of Torpichen in Midlothian, where at the era of the "Reformation" "the possessions" of the combined orders of the Hospitalers of St. John and the Templars were declared forfeited to the Crown of Great Britain and Ireland, on the grounds that the services required by oath of the Prior or Preceptor were to defend and maintain the "Roman Catholic religion." The last Grand Prior, Sir John Sandilands, embracing the Protestant faith, surrendered the possessions of the Priory to the Government, receiving a grant of them to himself, with the title of Lord Torpichen in 1564, which founded the existing family of that name.

After the dispersion of the members an unsupported tradition relates that many of them joined a Masonic Lodge at "Sterling," which gave rise to the Knightly order becoming incorporated with Masonry. The present Scottish ritual is very similar to that of