

the masonry of the Desert originated, how far it resembles our own forms, how extensively it is diffused, etc., are questions of profoundest interest yet to be solved, I trust, through influences set into motion by my own journey to the East.

THE ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND.

The Royal Order of Scotland, a system of high degrees, which is said to have been established by King Robert the Bruce, in 1314, consists of two degrees, namely, that of H. R. D. M., or more properly H. R. M., and that of R. S. Y. C. S. The first may be briefly described as a Christianized form of the third degree, purified from the dross of Paganism, and even of Judaism, by the Caldees, who introduced Christianity into Scotland in the early centuries of the Church. The second degree is an order of civil knighthood, supposed to have been founded by Robert the Bruce after the battle of Bannockburn, and conferred by him upon certain Masons who had assisted him on that memorable occasion. He, so the tradition goes, gave power to the Grand Master of the Order for the time being to confer this honor, which is not inherent in the general body itself, but is specially given by the Grand Master and his Deputy, and can be conferred only by them, or Provincial Grand Masters appointed by them. The number of Knights is limited, and formerly only sixty-three could be appointed, and they Scotchmen; now, however, that number has been much increased, and distinguished Masons of all countries are admitted to its ranks. In 1747 Prince Charles Edward Stuart, in his celebrated Charter to Arras, claimed to be the Sovereign Grand Master of the Royal Order, "*Nous Charles Edward Stewart, Roi d'Angleterre, de France, de l'Ecosse et d'Irlande, et en cette qualite, S. G. M. du Chapitre de H.*" Prince Charles goes on to say that H. O. or H. R. M. is known as the "Pelican and Eagle." "*Connu sous le titre de Chevalier de l'Aigle et de Pelican, et depuis nos malheurs et nos infortunes, nous celui de Rose Croix.*" Now, there is not the shadow of a proof that the Rose Croix, says Bro. Reitam, was ever known in England till twenty years after 1747; and in Ireland it was introduced by a French chevalier, M. L'Aurent, about 1782 or 1783. The Chapter at Arras was the first constituted in French—"Chapitre primordial de Rose Croix,"—and from other circumstances (the very name *Rose Croix* being a translation of R. S. Y. C. S.) some writers have been led to the conclusion that the degree chartered by Prince Charles Edward was, if not the actual Royal Order in both points, a Masonic ceremony founded on and pirated from the most ancient and venerable Order.

This however is an error; because, except in name, there does not appear to be the slightest connection between the *Rose Croix* and the Royal Order of Scotland. In the first place, the whole ceremonial is different, and different in essentials. Most of the language used in the Royal Order is couched in quaint old rhyme, modernized, no doubt, to make it "understood of the vulgar," but still retaining sufficient about it to stamp its genuine antiquity. The *Rose Croix* degree is most probably the genuine descendant of the old Rosicrucians, and no doubt it has always had a more or less close connection with the Templars.

Dr. Oliver had a great opinion of the Royal Order, and had no doubt antiquity.