

Roman Colleges, when one structure was completed, they travelled to wherever they were required in building others, and there formed a lodge near their work. In troublesome times, when no building was done, the lodges were dissolved. York, however, continued to be the seat of their general assemblies until the 17th century, although there were intervals of many years without an assembling then to be convened by the leading architect,—master-builder of the time being,—such architect, master-builder or general surveyor, was usually appointed by the king.

For our present form of rituals, it is unnecessary to refer back farther than the year 1600. Subsequent to this time something was done towards uniformity of rituals by that famous architect, Inigo Jones, the first who obtained the title of Grand Master, under King James the First, in 1603. Sir Nicholas Stone was Warden under Grand Master Jones. Some valuable Masonic manuscripts are preserved, emanating from those distinguished brothers. Grand Master Jones continued to be one of the principle rulers in the craft until his death in 1646.

About this time, there were seven lodges in London, and many eminent persons became accepted Masons. The celebrated antiquarian, Sir Elias Ashmole, was initiated, and took a prominent part in improving the institution. He found the work of the lodges loosely done, and no defined method for performing the rites. The ceremonies were confused, and not rendered the same in any two lodges. He therefore determined to complete the rituals, partly formulated by the late Grand Master Jones, and Warden Stone. Bro. Ashmole gathered from ancient Anglo-Saxon manuscripts, the Syrian rituals, the Egyptian mysteries, and otherwise, sufficient to enable him to produce rituals to the several degrees; they were by him carefully formulated, and

submitted to an assembly of Masters at London, and adopted in 1650, and were subsequently adopted by all the lodges in England. His production is still in the possession of the Lodge of Antiquity, at London, and is styled the "Ashmole manuscript." This system was also introduced into Scotland, and generally adopted by the lodges there.

The lodges in Scotland were as badly at sea in regard to uniformity of work, as were those in England prior to this time. We find positive record that the old lodge, Mother Kilwinning, had but four officers up to December, 1735, viz., a Deacon, a Warden, a Clerk, and an officer of the lodge; and the Clerk was not necessarily a Mason, but was sworn to make a true record and keep secret; and only notaries public were eligible for the office of Lodge Clerk. Several other lodges held this system; ("this slim array of officers would not permit of the rituals being rendered very elaborately.") The office of Deacon, or "Maisterman," was created by act of the king in 1490, by charter of James the second.

In ancient times, when a Master was installed, the ceremony partook of a religious character, and the Priest Architect officiated; and besides the Master's assent to the ancient charges in a lodge of secret custom, "Le Loge Lothomorum," the first part of the Master's degree was conferred; this ceremonial was a type of all the religions. The Roman clergy of our day, in the sacrifice of the mass, celebrate the passion, violent death, and resurrection, so forcibly exemplified in the legend of the third degree. The after-part of the Master's degree, the "Royal Arch," was conferred after he had passed the chair.

At the close of the sixteenth century, the Masonic corporations had entirely disappeared from the continent of Europe; and during the seventeenth century, no traces can be found of any regular organization