

But there is another story in Virgil that stands in a nearer relation to the case of Hiram, and the accident by which he is said to have been discovered, which is this: Priamus, king of Troy, in the beginning of the Trojan war, committed his son Polydorus to the care of Polymnestor, king of Thrace, and sent with him a great sum of money; but after Troy was taken, the Thracian, for the sake of the money, killed the young prince and privately buried him. Æneas coming into that country and accidentally plucking up a shrub that was near him on the side of a hill, discovered the murdered body of Polydorus. *Æneid. III.*, by Dryden:

Not far, a rising hillock stood in view,
Sharp myrtles on the sides and cornels grew;
There while I went to crop the sylvan scenes,
And shade our altar with the leafy greens,
I pull'd a plant; with horror I relate
A prodigy so strange and full of fate,
Scarce dare I tell the sequel. From the womb
Of wounded earth and caverns of the tomb,
A groan, as of a troubled ghost, renewed
My fright; and then these dreadful words ensued:
Why dost thou thus my buried body rend?
O spare the corpse of thy unhappy friend!

The agreement between these two relations is so exact, that there wants no further illustration.

VII. We are told that a sprig of cassia was placed by the brethren at the head of Hiram's grave; which refers to an old custom of those Eastern countries of embalming the dead, in which operation cassia was always used, especially in preparing the head and drying up the brain, as Herodotus more particularly explains. The sweet wood, perfumes and flowers, used about the graves of the dead, occur so frequently in the old poets, that it would be tedious to mention them. Ovid thus describes the death of the Phenix, (*Metam.*, lib. xv.)

Upon a shady tree she takes her rest,
And on the highest bough her funeral nest
Her beak and talons build; then strews thereon
Balm, cassia, spikenard, myrru and cinnamon:
Last on the fragrant pile herself she lays,
And in consuming odours ends her days.

—*The Masons' Home Book.*

THE MYSTERIES OF FREEMASONRY.

Showing from the Origin, Nature and Object of the Rites and Ceremonies of Remote Antiquity, their Identity with the Order of Modern Free-Masonry.

COMPILED FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES BY W. BRO. OTTO KLOTZ.

"If circumstances lead me, I will find
Where Truth is hid, though it were hid indeed
Within the centre. —SHAKESPEARE.

THE MYSTERIES OF THE BRITISH DRUIDS.

The Druids were the priests of the ancient Britons, Gauls and other Celtic nations, and were divided into three classes; the *Bards* who were poets and musicians, formed the first class, the *Yates* who were priests and physiologists, composed the second class and the third