

philosophical, or as it is sometimes called, ineffable Masonry. It is also of very deep interest and importance to the student of ancient history.

There are at least three principal branches of the literal Cabbala, which are denominated Gematria, Notaricon and Temura.

Gematria is a mode of contemplating words according to the numerical value of the letters of which they are composed.

The Hebrews, like many other ancient nations, had no figures such as the "Arabic" numerals,—and hence instead they made use of the letters of the alphabet, each letter having a particular numerical value.

The first ten letters of their alphabet (which see) have numerical values from one to ten inclusive. The next eight proceed by "tens" to the number "ninety"—and the remaining four letters designate the hundreds from one hundred to four hundred. Four final letters express the hundreds from five hundred to nine hundred inclusive, and the higher numbers are designated by further combinations of the foregoing.

It is worthy of particular note that the numerical system of the Hebrews, was a "decimal system."

The now prevailing arithmetical numerals and system of numeration are generally called the Arabic, but more correctly they are the Indian or Hindustanic.

The one hundred and nineteenth Psalm in the Old Testament Scriptures, with its twenty-two divisions of eight verses each,—is in itself a mine of information concerning the numeric, acrostic and cabbalistic uses of the

twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet,—many of which, with the aid of almost any good commentary, the expert Craftsman may readily learn.

It is one of the important principles of Gematria that "any two words, the letters of which have the same numerical value, are mutually convertible, and each is supposed to contain the latent signification of the other."

Notaricon, or the second principal branch of the literal cabbala, is a mode of constructing one word out of the initials or finals of many, or of a sentence out of the letters of a word, each letter being used as the initial of another word. This also produces some remarkable and peculiarly instructive results.

Temura is Cabbala by permutation of letters. "Sometimes the letters of a word are transposed to form another word, making what is familiarly known as an anagram, or the letters of a word are changed for others according to certain fixed rules of alphabetical permutation."

There are many other principles and divisions of the Cabbalah, to which we cannot refer at this present, but we purpose returning to the subject as time and space permit.

There are those who are disposed to consider the Jewish Cabbala as mere jargon. Others are of the opinion that such is a hasty judgment and the result of superficial or prejudiced investigation, and they affirm that nearly all the esoteric wisdom of the ancients, and much of that which is more modern,—was concealed from the "profane" world, and preserved and perpetuated amongst "the wise," chiefly by what among the Jews is termed "Cabbalah."