

The Druses profess seven commandments viz :

1. Truth in words.
2. Reciprocal vigilance for each others safety.
3. Absolute renunciation of whatever religion may have been previously acknowledged,
4. Keeping aloof from all heretics.
5. Recognizing the unity of God.
6. Resting in God's will and works.
7. Absolute obedience to all God's orders.

Conformity to these seven rules, and keeping them strictly secret from all persons not in their society, were obligatory both upon the male and female Druses.

In a previous paragraph, I stated their rule concerning veracity. "Falsehood is not permitted to us," thus says one of their writers, "for that would be to doubt religion, and to be deficient in faith. All money engagements should be faithfully kept, there should be no dispute or discussion among brethren."

The doctrine of mutual protection and assistance lies at the basis of this great fraternity and is probably the cause of its long continuance and influence. As Brother Churchill remarks, "It is this principle that has been the mainstay of the Druses, giving them the attitude of strength and compactness in the presence of their enemies, and enabling them, in spite of many reverses, to hold their ground, and maintain among their native mountains of Lebanon the attitude of independence and superiority.

The will of their founder under this head is very explicit. He ordered them in these words :

"Watch over the safety of the brethren ? administer to their necessities ; satisfy their religious and secular demands ; receive their excuses ; look upon those who deceive them as your enemies ; visit them when sick ; do good to them when poor and relieve them, not holding short your hand." It is forbidden to a Druse when he knows his brother to be in want, to permit him to seek relief elsewhere. No one has ever seen a Druse begging. They are divided into two classes, Akkal and Jahilt, the Initiated and the Uninitiated. Their costume is a round white turban untwisted with a cloak reaching to the knees. They use neither wine or tobacco, do not tolerate polygamy, falsehood, blasphemy, or obscenity. Their Lodges which are very secluded meet every Friday night. The Lodge-room is plain and unadorned. The order of business is :

1. Point out your enemies.
2. Name those who are oppressed.
3. Raise charitable contributions.
4. Read from religious books.
5. Sing a hymn.
6. Call to refreshments.

The test-question to a Druse is : "Do farmers in your country sow the seed of the hleledge?"

"Yes, in the hearts of the faithful."

3. BEDOUIN FREEMASONRY.—That the chiefs of the great Arabian tribes are masons, at least so far as to understand, respond to, and acknowledge masonic signs, has been determined. Brother James Riley, shipwrecked sixty years since with his crew upon the Western coast of Africa, was rescued through the influences of the Masonic tie, and many others have shared the same world-wide privilege. Whenc