

In the progress of time, the Earl of "Torpichin," in Scotland, became the head of the Order in that country, who, at the Reformation, resigned his connection with it and surrendered to the Crown the Lands and Lordship of the United Orders, which ceased to be (in Scotland) a Sovereign Body; but the doctrinal ritual, it is claimed, was preserved, and carried to the North of Europe, principally into Denmark, where it has been kept and practised (though in secret) under the protection of Royalty.

I am persuaded that the Order of St. John, after the Union with the dispersed Templars, had such a ritual; indeed, portions of it, I have every reason to believe, I had in my possession, and found it an easy matter to obtain evidence of its truths. Several private papers of Judge Walter Rodwell Wright (whom H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex succeeded as Grand Master of the English Templars in 1812), given to me in Malta, with many valuable documents from other sources, were lost chiefly in the fire of 1882.

Judge Wright's original papers on the Red Cross Order convince me that he was aware of the ancient system preserved by the Order of St. John.

While the progress of the Templar Order was advancing in retirement and secrecy, the Builders' branch (Masonry) was progressing in the erection of religious houses, preceptories, monasteries, colleges, etc., for two or three centuries, during which time the early members were removed by death, and their places filled by "Builders" or Masons of the common Order; so that in the early part of the fifteenth century, the Builders were formed into a "Guild," and the characteristics of their sacred doctrinal mysteries, which they had inherited, were forgotten and lost, partly from motives of prudence, partly from indifference and forgetfulness. The earliest record we have of the mechanical Guild growing out of the Builders from the Cloisters, together with their ritual, is A. D. 1549. On examination of them, it will be found that they had but *one degree*, and that purely mechanical or operative, although fully Christian (vide Steinhilber's History) in its teachings. When the revival and revision of 1717 took place, the Christian element of Masonry was eradicated, and Free and Accepted Masonry declared a universal doctrine and no longer sectarian. There can be but little doubt that the desire on the part of many of the old members to preserve its early Christian character, led to the introduction of the Modern Templar system being attached to Freemasonry, showing that both originally sprung from the same source, and were in possession of the same early teachings of the Christian faith. We can, however, only consider one