

as the Templars—under any circumstances they could have had no connection with the Royal Arch, a Jewish Masonic degree of very modern times, that grew out of the disputes arising between the two rival English Grand Lodges of the *last* century, in the schism, known as “Ancient and Modern Masons”—much less with the “American Red Cross Degree,” called in Great Britain the “Babylonish Pass,” a fabrication with other side degrees of the last century, taken from a Persian legend, consequently Pagan, which may be looked upon as having some reference to the Royal Arch, but in no sense to Christian degrees.

5.]—The “Malta” ritual lately adopted does not appear to find much favor with our American Brethren, and now that I fully understand their organization, I do not much wonder at it, for it is fully admitted the degrees of Malta cannot possibly have any connection with the Free Masonry of the revival; how then can it be combined with *Templary based on Free Masonry*;—with us the two orders are a combination, and nearly all we know of the Templars has been principally derived through the Malta Order;—our ritual is a historical sketch of the old Knightly institution of the “Hospitallers of St. John,” illustrating by its symbols the principles of the Catholic Faith. (7.)

(7.) Independent branches of the old Political Order are still in existence, that of the sixth English language was revived about sixty years ago, incontestibly proved as the lineal descendant of the Ancient Order—devoted to the original purposes of the “Hospitallers,” the alleviation of the sick and sufferings of the human race, holding its meetings in London at St. John’s Gate House—Clerkenwell—all that remains of the Chief House of the Order in England—“The Priory of Clerkenwell,” and has well earned its appropriate motto—“*Pro utilitate hominum*”;—this branch is in no way connected with any of the benefit or other societies called Knights of Malta or St. John, founded on the same principles as the “Orange” Order to uphold and protect the Protestant faith. Such a society exists in the United States of America claiming to be a *genuine* branch of the old Order from the Protestant seceding Knights in Scotland at the Reformation. There is no authority whatever for this claim as the original order continued at its “*Chef-Lieu*” in Malta until the final dissolution in 1798—but there is little doubt it is merely a continuation of those self-constituted independent Encampments of St. John, formed at the end of the last century, which did *not* join the Masonic Body, as was the case in Great Britain, to avoid the penalty of the Acts of Parliament against secret societies, but remained in the United States as a *separate* Body.

6.]—In the Proceedings of the Grand Commandery of “California” last year, a very beautiful explanation of the symbolism of