

"PLANS," the latter appellation, to the fact that their 'House' was close to the 'Temple Church,' built near the foundation of the Ancient Temple of Solomon.

"Pope Honorius ii., at the instance of St. Bernard, and at the request of Baldwin ii. King of Jerusalem, commanded 'Hugo de Payens' and the other members, to obtain confirmation of their design to form a Military Order, at the Council of Pielates, at Troyes, in France, which assembled on the 13th January, 1128. At this assembly the regulations of the Templars were drawn up and adopted, which in reality created the Military Order, then composed of nine Knights only. These rules gave them the right to wear the *white* mantle and the *cross*, until then, *i.e.* nine years, they had only the dress of the secular clergy, with *no* cross, single or double

"As they grew in usefulness and Military renown, their members were largely increased, and their following swelled by all ranks and classes of society, who flocked to the Standard of the Cross, and they became, by the aid of Baldwin ii. King of Jerusalem, not only a most efficient safe-guard to the Christian Pilgrims, but a most formidable bulwark against all aggressors of the Christian faith; such was the origin of The Order of Knights Templar."

Should there be other Aspirants for Inception present, the historical sketch can be deferred until the end of the ceremony, or to a more convenient time.

PRECEPTOR.—I shall now proceed to put further questions to you, which I trust you will answer with candour. Do you profess the doctrine of the "Holy and Undivided Trinity."

ANS.—I do, Eminent Sir.

If this is not answered in the affirmative the Aspirant must be rejected.

PRECEPTOR.—Are you willing to promise obedience to the lawful commands of your immediate superior in office?

ANS.—I am, Eminent Sir.

PRECEPTOR.—Wash your hands then in that basin, representing the Molten sea,* in testimony of the pure intentions with which you come amongst us, as was done by our forefathers when they most solemnly asserted their innocence of any offence.