

But before he was received as an established member, he was first to bind himself by solemn obligations and professions,* to do justice, to do no wrong, to keep faith with all men, to embrace the truth, to keep his hands clear from theft and fraudulent dealing; not to conceal from his fellow professors any of the Mysteries, nor communicate any of them to the profane, though it should be to save his life; to deliver nothing but what he received, and to endeavor to preserve the principle that he professes. They eat and drink at the same common table, and the Fraternity that come from any other place are sure to be received there. They meet together in an Assembly, and the right hand is laid upon the part between the chin and the breast, while the left hand is let down straight by their side.

The Cabalists, another Sect, dealt in hidden and mysterious ceremonies.† The Jews had a great regard for this Science, and thought they made uncommon discoveries by means of it. They divided their knowledge into Speculative and Operative. David and Solomon, they say, were exquisitely skilled in it, and nobody at first presumed to commit it to writing; but (what seems most to the present purpose) the perfection of their Skill consisted in what the Dissector calls *lettering of it*, or by ordering the letters of a word in a particular manner.

The last instance I shall mention is that of the Druids, in our own nation, who were the only priests among the antient Britons.‡ In their solemnities they were clothed in white, and their ceremonies always ended with a good feast. Pomponius Mela relates of 'em, that their Science was only an effort of memory, for they wrote down nothing, and they never failed to repeat many verses which they received by tradition. Caesar observes that they had a head or chief, who had sovereign power. This president exercised a sort of excommunication, attended with dreadful penalties, upon such as either divulged or profaned their Mysteries.

Thus, with reasonable allowance for distance of time, place, and other intermediate accidents, the preceding collections discover something, at least, like Masonry if the Dissection contains any such thing.

* Vide Philo de Vita Contemplativa. Josephus Antiq., lib. viii. cap. 2.

† Vide Basnage's History of the Jews, on Cabala. Collier's Dictionary on the word Cabala.

‡ Vide Caesaris Comment., lib. vi. Sammis' History of Britain, book i. chap. 4.

[To be continued.]

LOUISIANA.

Answer of the Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Canada, to a resolution offered by the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, to recognize the Grand Lodge of Quebec, at the Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, on the 14th, February, 1871.

M. W. GRAND MASTER, OFFICERS, AND GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA:

Were I to omit to address you upon this subject, I might be charged with niddering, and be guilty of ingratitude for the honor conferred by the appointment as Grand Representative of the grand Lodge of Canada, at your grand East. The well-earned and acknowledged ability of our learned and Ill. Bro., the Chairman of your Committee, together with