

the Master from them, but out of it changed the *Truth* to suit their own legend, dividing the ritual of the Craft into *three* degrees in conformity to the three steps of the "Disciplina Arcani"—"The Disciple of the Mysteries." The ancient form of conveying instruction in the Mysteries of the early Christians—the principles of which were evidently known and practised as the doctrinal teaching of the Ancient Templars and Stone Masons.

It may be, that Anderson and his colleagues were not without knowledge of the ancient system, but impressed with the belief that it was of too sacred and sectarian a character to be communicated in common, and therefore more advisable to introduce an entirely new one, on the cosmopolitan plan of Universal Charity. Some such idea must also have been entertained by the old Templar Order, who had one general ceremony for a "Reception," and another only communicated to a select few of the Order.

WHY THE TEMPLAR SYSTEM BECAME ENGRAFTED ON FREE AND
ACCEPTED MASONRY.

So many surmises and conflicting opinions have been advanced as to why the Templar system was introduced into F. and A. M., and doubts expressed on the subject, that I feel it but right to lay before you all the reliable information that can be collected. I have already shown that the Ancient Templar Order and the Builders' (Stone Masons' Guild) took their rise from the same source and in the same century,—promulgating the same doctrines:—The Sacred or Holy Mysteries.*

On the suppression of the Templars, many of the brethren took refuge and united with the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, afterwards "Knights of Malta," and there preserved their secret doctrines.

*The word "Mystery" in the Scriptures, is well defined as simply meaning, "A revealed truth, a truth which man could not discover, but which God makes known."

The Sacred or Holy Mysteries, preserved in the cloisters of the early Christian Church, are anterior to the Christian religion, being the spirit of prophecy. "They saw Christ by faith and represented Him and His doctrines by symbols." They are in existence to day, as they were then. The Advent of Christ confirmed them in their full glory. They teach that *none* can claim the right of eternal life beyond the grave but those who "Believe on Him that liveth and was dead, and is now alive for ever more," and follow the Lowly One in the narrow path which is marked out for pilgrims in their sojourn here. They are dogmatic; they discard all metaphysical reasoning and speculative theories, and declare with a trumpet tongue the "fall of sin"—the innate corruption of human nature and the necessity of regeneration.