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RELATIONS OF STS. JOHN TO FREEMASONRY.

[Bro. Jacob Norton in the Freemason.]

MANY columns were filled in 1870-71, in the London *Freemason*, discussing the above question, but with no result. On one side it was mere assertion that the legends cannot be disproved, and that St. John said, "Love ye one another." This was simply ridiculed by the opponents, and there was actually nothing proved or disproved. I mean, therefore, in this paper to give briefly all the known legends of the Sts. John Masonry, and then to show their worthlessness.

I have before me Bro. A. T. C. Pierson's book of "Traditions of Freemasonry." Its title-page sets forth the author's claim as a great Mason, such as being a P. G. M., P. G. H. P., G. Capt. Gen. of the G. Encampment of the T. S., and Inspector General 33°. Our author was thus enabled to collect all the traditions from the whole Masonic *arcana*, besides many works enumerated in the preface, on theology, astrology, mythology, cabalostology, and other ologies, all which he carefully studied in connection with Oliver's and Mackey's works: from which works he acquired the use of many learned words and phrases—such as Pelasgi, Hierophant, Samothrace, Jupiter, Osiris, Thoth, Typhon, and what not, all which he conglomerated into Masonry, for "all was fish that came into his net." Besides which, he bespattered the book with clusters of Hebrew letters, to all which he appended meanings, though some have no meanings at all. But what of that? It served to impress Tom, Dick and Harry with the author's profound scholarship. With such miscellaneous stock of stuff, Bro. Pierson deemed himself worthy of shining amid the Masonic constellation of luminaries; and this aspiration resulted in the publication of this book, which is neither more nor less than a rehash of Oliver's absurdities. And as I am certain that the whole Masonic horizon of luminaries cannot furnish a more zealous Johannite than Bro. Pierson, I have therefore selected this book to cull from the accumulated traditions of the Sts. John Masonry, and here they are:

Legend 1st. "Our ancient brethren dedicated their lodges to King Solomon, because he was our M. E. G. M.; but modern Masons dedicate lodges to Saints John the Baptist and the Evangelist, who were