

equinoctical points, at which the line of the ecliptic crosses the line of the equator—that is, the sun in his apparent path, the ecliptic comes to shine directly over the line of the equator: this he does in spring and autumn, and only then.—

The *seven winding stairs*, passing the two pillars of Boaz and Jachin are emblematical of the seven circular stages, made by the sun in his tour round those imaginary columns. The emerging of the sun from the lower hemisphere on the 21st of March, and his return on the 27th of September, may, in figurative language be denominated his rising and setting in regard to our hemisphere. Thus Osiris, the sun sets the husbandmen to work on his rising at the former periods and Isis, the emblem of harvest, pays them in the fruits of the earth, on his return to the latter.

So the master of the lodge, who stands in the east, representing the sun, rises and sets his men to work; and the senior warden, who stands in the west representing Isis, pays them their wages. To render this personification of Isis perfectly plain, the senior warden's office is represented by a painting of a sheaf of wheat.

It is also worthy of remark, that as the pagans constructed their temples in a manner to represent the world, they would naturally, for that purpose, imagine, the world to be divided into three departments or chambers; the upper, the middle, and the lower. The middle chamber would of course include the autumnal equinox; and on the arrival of the sun at that point of the heaven the labourer, the husbandman, is paid his wages in the fruits of the earth, being: *corn, wine, and oil*. Isis as we have seen, under the symbol of harvest paid the husbandmen their wages, which they received without *hesitation* knowing that they had honestly worked for them and without *timidity*, from their firm belief in the impartial distribution thereof by the goddess Isis.

The *house* of God, being the universe, is doubtless established upon principles that will sustain it forever. The two pillars, being imaginary props, standing at the two equinoxes east and west, to support the world; hence the pillar Boaz, representing Osiris, the sun, is properly said to denote *strength*, and the pillar Jachin representing Isis, the earth, and sometimes the moon, may be applied metaphorically to *establish*, since both were necessary to the creation.

The sun is the creator and father, the earth the mother of all things, those two Deities govern, produce and nourish everything connected with the visible universe.

Osiris, the sun, by his genial influence in the spring season prepares the earth for cultivation, gives life to its various productions, and consequently enables the husbandman to commence his labor.

Isis, the *teeming mother*, who personifies the earth as well as the moon, nourishes during the summer the seeds committed to her bosom, and in the fall season rewards the labourer.

The two pillars are described to be *eighteen cubits high, twelve* in circumference and *four* in diameter.

The *eighteen cubits* refer to the inundation of the Nile, being the highest elevation, it is known to have attained.

The *twelve cubits* relate to the twelve signs of the zodiac, through which the sun passes and the *four cubits* have reference to the *tetractys*.