

sequence of Masonic degrees of the English rite. (2.) The object was to provide for *Christian* Masonry being practised, but separate from the Universal Craft, for it is useless to dispute about the Christian character of Free-Masonry before 1717—all the old charges from the fourteenth century begin with an invocation to the Holy Christian Trinity. As to "Jewish" Free-Masonry, it is essentially modern, and the multitude of "side" degrees are owing to the "*Search after what was lost*," which has led to all the grotesque fabrications of the latter part of the last century,—requiring brethren for the want of something more tangible and visible, have never ceased for a century and more to grope in the dark, culling all sorts of incoherent material from every part of the globe, until the obstinacy of the Craft Grand Lodges, have given way, in as far as they think they may assent to all kinds of systems being brought forward in some sort of connection, though they do *not* know why?

THE BRITISH TEMPLAR SYSTEM.

In 1791, a Grand Conclave was held in London, and the old statutes of the Masonic Knights Templar and Knights of Malta revised. A refounding and reformation of the Orders took place in A. D. 1804-7, which were again, by the process of evolution, reconstructed in 1873, under the Grand Mastership of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales. The United Orders being confined to the mystic portals of Freemasonry, to represent the chivalric fraternities of the Ancient Templars and the Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem.

In this system we follow the symbolism of the "Sacred Mysteries," the prototype of the old Templar doctrines, and the basis of the early Masonic symbols, exemplified in the Danish Christain degree of the Society of St. John, alluded to in my last Allocution.

The universal and popular belief was well founded that the Ancient Templars held sacred and secret doctrines unknown to the

(2.) The Royal Arch legend has *not* the slightest allusion to the Templar degrees,—referring to an age long anterior to the Christian era—the intention being to preserve the sanctity of the Holy and ineffable name, and commemorate the finding of the *lost* word and Book of the Law—this degree being *invented after the revival*, is now considered the fourth, and *last* Degree in the English rite of Craft Masonry, and for this reason the "Templar" Degrees follow it.