

ANS.—In our Blessed Saviour JESUS CHRIST.

PRECEPTOR.—Well pleased am I to find your FAITH so well founded, and I recognize you as one well fitted to belong to our Fraternity. Listen then, to a short history of the origin of the Temple Order.

A short historical account is now read or spoken by the Constable or other Office Bearer, or it may be deferred until the close of the Ceremony.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

"The Ancient Religious and Military Order of Knights Templar, was founded at Jerusalem in the beginning of the 12th Century, A.D., 1118. The objects were, the defence of the Holy Sepulchre and the protection of Christian Pilgrims against the Saracens and Turks, who profaned the Holy Sepulchre and derided the Sacred Mysteries in the places where they were fulfilled.

"The opinion then prevailed in Europe, that the one thousand years mentioned in the 20th Chapter of Revelation, was about being fulfilled, and that 'CHRIST' would soon make his second appearance in Palestine, to Judge the World. This increased the Pilgrimages to that country, and they were considered in the highest degree meritorious, and even absolutely necessary.

"The foundation of the Templar Order, grew out of these circumstances, beginning, in the first instance, with a small number of the Benedictine Order of Monks, who resided in Monasteries at Jerusalem, near the sacred places, and were principally employed as nurses in the hospitals attached to the religious houses, for the care of the sick and worn-out Pilgrims visiting the Holy Land. These Monks partook largely of the Military spirit of the times, and became 'Monk Soldiers,' for the defence of the Sepulchre and the Pilgrims.

"Two valiant Knights 'Hugo de Paganis or Payens,' and 'Geoffrey de St. Aldemar or Omer,' seeing the dreadful miseries and cruelties inflicted by the barbarian 'infidels' upon the Christian Pilgrims, while travelling to the Holy places in Palestine, first conceived the idea of forming a Military Religious Order, which should give shelter and succour to the wandering Christians. They were joined in their benevolent design by six other noble Knights skilful military leaders. For nine years, with persevering ardor, they devoted themselves to the cause, during which time many generous Pilgrims and Crusaders supplied them with money and means, and 'Hugo Count de Provence,' admiring their disinterested deeds, desired to have his name enrolled as the NINTH original member of The Order, which had become known as 'THE POOR FELLOW SOLDIERS OF JESUS CHRIST,' 'POOR SOLDIERS OF THE TEMPLE OF SOLOMON,' afterwards abbreviated to 'TEM-