

The secret ritual of these doctrines, I have *every reason* to believe, is still in existence, sacredly preserved and most securely kept. It is purely religious, and in perfect harmony with God's word, but *not* intended to be made public or used in common. Born in the school of the prophets, preserved by them in the most sacred manner, yet forming the great work of their teachings, transmitted only to a small and select number,—they reach us at the present day, *not* as a published system to call for the admiration, or satisfy the curiosity of "the world," but to become a secret and unmentionable basis for teaching and reformation.

One thing is very certain, that it will never do to give indiscriminate publicity to the Ancient Ceremonial; it would be treated with derision and scorn by the "Free thinker and scoffer." Such sacred truths are unfit for the idle and profane, for it is painful to record, but no less true, that there is *not* sufficient reverence for God's word, for the inviolability of an oath amongst many professing members of the Order, who merely look upon it as a matter of recreation—a matter of course, of no consequence,—the plaything of an hour.

I have thus endeavored to show you that the origin of the Templars and Builders, was from a common source,—carrying with them the *same* doctrines.

The Templars, who were organized into a great military body, were suppressed *five* centuries ago, but some of them uniting with the Order of St. John, of Jerusalem, their secret doctrines were preserved and introduced into various countries of Europe.

We know but little of the actual system pursued by the "Masonic Lodges" prior to 1717, or their connection with Templary, but it is one of the well-known legends of the Society, that after the suppression, a few of the Templars became mingled with the Architectural Fraternities; and it is recorded, that as early as 1590 a Lodge of Builders, at Sterling, in Scotland, had a Templar Chapter attached to it, who were called "*Cross-legged Masons*," and whose initiatory ceremonies were performed, *not* in a room, but in the old Abbey, the ruins of which are still to be seen in the neighborhood.

From the period of the Reformation, the combined Orders of the Temple, and "Hospitallers of St. John," in Scotland, appear *only* as belonging to the Masonic Society.

In England, after the establishment of the revised system of Masonry (1717), there is not a doubt but that many of the brethren,

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