

*A. Rite*, on its establishment in England, but are still retained by some of the most ancient of the bodies of English Templars. An examination into the ceremonial and ritual of these *two* grades of 18° and 30°, will clearly show that they are properly "*Templar*" grades, instituted for specific reasons, connected with the Order of *The Temple*, and that as a part of the *A. and A. Rite* they are quite out of place, and have therein no significance whatever. It must be a subject of regret to every templar that these grades were ever so needlessly and improperly surrendered.

The Templar ceremonial is the *reception* of a *Novice* into the Order. The *Rose Croix* teaches the great fundamental truths of Christianity by symbolizing as it does the crucifixion, descent into "Hades," and glorious ascension of our Lord.

The "*Kadosh*" is a grade instituted to keep in perpetual remembrance the violent oppression and outward suppression of the Order, and the martyrdom and sufferings of "*Jacques de Molai*," the Grand Master, and a number of his Knights in Paris.

We will now, in a few words, explain the reason *why* the *Papal power* and nearly all the *Monarchs of Christendom* united to, if possible, totally extinguish this Order, as the ordinary reasons attributed to "*Philip le Bel of France*," and *Pope Clement*, with the other authors of their overthrow, will not suffice entirely to account for their catastrophe. When the Holy Land was lost and abandoned the Templars returned to their wealthy European *Preceptories*—the Order was no longer of use as a Military body, and it was felt their day was past—between them and "*King Philip*" a bitter and undying hatred had been engendered by numerous acts of arrogance and insubordination against his authority, as they claimed, an authority and jurisdiction independent of kings; and it cannot be denied they had deviated from the original purpose of their institution, rendering themselves unfit depositors of that wealth which had been bequeathed to them for purposes widely different from those to which, during the last years of their existence, they had appropriated it.

In the second place, the Templars taught within their most secret conclaves the doctrine of the "*Gnostics*," and that the *Papal power* was a false and dangerous assumption of authority over the minds and consciences of men, and that very many of the dogmas of Rome were but gross and childish superstitions. Hence, by the union of their Templar and *spiritual* power, this *Order*, that was felt by both King and Pope to be highly dangerous to the perpetuation of their despotism over the souls as well as the bodies of mankind, was ruthlessly attempted to be utterly destroyed. As late as 1776, the Jesuits having discovered that the Templar Order was in some continental countries continuing its operations under the designation of the "*Kadosh*," warned the governments of all Roman Catholic countries against the latter *Order*. and caused it to be prescribed as dangerous and antagonistic to the doctrines of the Church of Rome.

Thus in a few words we have given the real reason why the Order of the Temple was in 1313, and has been since, as at the present moment, under the ban of the Roman Pontiff.

The recent installation of *H. R. H. The Prince of Wales*, as Grand Master of the United Orders in England, Wales, Ireland, and possessions of the British Empire, and revision of the Statutes, eliminating the prefix "*Masonic*" and restoring the *proper* nomenclature of the different officers, &c., has materially tended to place the Orders on a correct and proper footing. It is an error to class that of the Temple amongst the *Masonic* degrees, a classification for which there is no warrant. *The Order* has been from an early period connected with Masonry, but is not one of the degrees of *pure* and *ancient* Freemasonry. The *Christian and Trinitarian* character is a sufficient proof of this. It merely claims to be a *revival* of the *Great Order of the Temple* of the *Crusades*, traditionally preserved and perpetuated to the present time by its connection with the time honored *Masonic Fraternity*. From every marked particular that can be ascertained, it would seem the Order of the Temple, as handed down to us, was connected with the "*Haut or Hautes Grades*," which were first brought out on the continent of Europe, at the beginning of the last century, but had long previously existed, and the Templar ritualistic ceremonies were most probably introduced into the Speculative system of this *high grade* Freemasonry by some of the continental members of the "*Ghiivallric Order of the Temple*," (now obsolete), which it has been asserted was regularly continued from the time of the martyrdom of "*De Molai*." Freemasonry itself was not generally known until its revival in 1717, where, getting into the hands of visionary enthusiasts, who knowing but little of its true history, in the absence of satisfactory documentary evidence, eagerly sought for and gave credence to every idle legend and tradition, as proofs of its genuine antiquity and amalgamation with the *old* Orders of Knighthood. Whilst endeavoring to give some insight into the history of the Order and place its present position in a correct light, it must not be supposed there is a desire on the part of any true Templar to ignore the obligations the Order owes to "*Freemasonry proper*," which has so long fostered it.