

then many different rituals have been used in conferring it. Bro. How says that the present one was arranged by the Rev. Bro. Adam Brown, at the instance of the late Duke of Sussex, and that the object his Royal Highness had in view is apparent to every R. A. Mason who has attained the rank of Past First Principal. A Royal Arch chapter to represents the great Sanhedrim, convened for the building of Zerubabel's Temple.

The degree of Mark Master has no satisfactory status in England. Some lodges are under a recently established Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England and Wales, whilst others still work under warrants derived from the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland. In the United States the degree is given preparatory to the Royal Arch.

Although in this country it has not long had a firm footing, the Antient and Accepted is undoubtedly the oldest of the modern Rites, having been established about the year 1700. The Supreme Grand Council for England and Wales and the Dependencies of Great Britain, was instituted in conformity with the general system of Government, adopted in France, the United States, Ireland, and other parts of both Continents, and comprehends the authority of the Antient Order of Harodim, which has existed from a very early period in this country. It does not interfere with Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, or Grand Conclave; and, although not recognising the degrees vested under the latter bodies as part of the antient system, it does not forbid any of its members taking them. The Rite consists of thirty-three degrees; the three first are of course symbolic, and must be taken, in England at all events, in a regular Craft lodge. The 31°, 32°, and 33° are limited in numbers and administrative; of the remainder, only the 18°, or Rose Croix, and the 30°, or elected Knight Kadosh, are usually given *in extenso*, the intervening degrees being conferred by *accolade*. Candidates have to swear allegiance to the Supreme Grand Council, and to promise to hold no Masonic intercourse in any of the Ineffable Degrees of Antient and Accepted Masonry with any except such Masons as are recognised by it as lawful and regular.

The Rose Croix is the most antient and generally practised of the historical degrees; it is found in all the principal Rites, and where it does not exist in name, its place is supplied by others, whose symbols do not materially differ from it. Of its origin nothing satisfactory is known; but its almost universal recognition in all countries favours the theory of its being of long standing. Its ceremonies are of the most impressive character, and eminently Christian. The ritual is remarkable for elegance of diction, and its teaching figuratively expresses the passage of man through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, accompanied and sustained by Faith, Hope, and Charity; and his final reception into the abode of life, light, and immortality. As may easily be