

the last century (3) also rejecting the various theories of a direct Templar descent, as well as the fabulous French "L'Ordre du Temple," which had a few followers at the commencement of the present century.

The United Orders in Canada are distinct from the Craft and unconnected with *Benefit* or other societies, its ceremonies being the reformed work of the dormant "Convent General," presided

(3.) The "Strict Observance," meaning *implicit obedience*, was first instituted and grafted on Freemasonry in Germany, by Baron Von Hund, in 1754, who had been admitted in France some ten years before into the Order of "Knights Templar." Supposed to have been preserved in Scotland, based upon the fiction that at the destruction of the Order certain Knights took refuge there, and preserved the existence of the Order by joining the Guilds of "Stone Masons," and thus giving rise to the fraternity of "*Free and Accepted Masons*,"—and that on the institution of the "Rite of Strict Observance," the time had arrived when they should boldly proclaim the continuance of the Order, their numbers to be renewed for ever from the ranks of "Free-masonry," in gratitude for the protection and support they had received.

In July, 1782, Prince Ferdinand, Duke of Brunswick, Grand Master of the Rite, held a Congress at Wilhelmsbad, in Hesse Cassel, by a great representative assembly of Masonic delegates throughout the world. The result of the conference was a complete revolution of the "High Grade" Templar system, at which it was resolved and declared that Freemasons were *not* the successors of the Templars, although connected with them. The Rituals were to be amended, and the Lodges not to be obliged to work the High degrees against their own wishes—reference to the Templars was to be a merely historical instruction.

This convocation opened the modern period of Freemasonry in Europe, and the adoption of "*Black Masonry*," (or Masonic Templary,) so named, it is said, from the modern Order adopting a black dress as a symbol of mourning for the martyrdom of the last chivalric Grand Master of the ancient order, "Jacques de Molai."

I am of opinion it arose on the dissolution of the Order, from the dispersed and persecuted Templars joining the Order of St. John of Jerusalem (or Malta,) whose *habit is black*.

After the conference at "Wilhelmsbad," the Rite of "Strict Observance" gradually declined, and ultimately died out altogether.

over by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales as Grand Master, which procured for Templary a status it had not hitherto enjoyed.

TEMPLAR DEGREES UNDER CRAFT WARRANTS.

The modern Templar degrees were at first, and for many years afterwards, conferred under Craft warrants, to give them sufficient authority to exist as an independent body. (4.) In the British

(4.) In the introduction to our last edition of the Statutes of Great Priory, is shown the date of the first Encampment of Knights Templar established in the Province of Canada, at the City of Kingston, attached to the St. John's Lodge there. The authority to confer the Templar and Malta degrees, dating from 1794, which was supposed to be the original and only one derived from England, in British North America, but it has been subsequently discovered in the old minute book of Lodge No. 211, of Halifax, Nova Scotia (this was St. John's Lodge chartered June 13, 1780, and is now No. 2 on the roll of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, formerly No. 24, 265, 187 and 161, Registry of England) that the Templar degrees were known several years earlier, as will be seen by the following interesting extract, given in full, dated over one hundred years ago:—

"Halifax, 18th Dec., A. D. 1782.

"At a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and Encampment of Knights Templar, under the sanction of Warrant 211, on the Grand Registry of England, held at the Golden Ball, on emergency. Present—The Right Worshipful Brother H. Kirkham, H. P. and G. C.; Brother Wooden, 1 K. and 1 G. W.; Brother Wiston, 2 K and 2 G. W.; Brother Peters, S.; Brothers Pyke, Osborne, J. W. Hierlichy, Hardy, Snelling, Wood. Applications having been made by Brothers Col. S. Hierlichy and John O'Brien for further light in the secret and hidden mysteries of Free-Masonry, being Past Masters of regular Lodges, and on due trial being found worthy, were by us installed and instituted into the sublime secrets of Royal Arch Masonry, and also upon further application the said Brothers Hierlichy and O'Brien were instituted and dubbed Knights of the Most Noble and Right Worshipful Order of Sir Knights Templars.

"The election of officers being brought on, the following were duly elected to serve for the ensuing year, viz:—

"Right Worshipful Bro. Pyke, H. P. and C. Genl.