

the Architectural Fraternities, and that a Lodge at Stirling, patronized by King James, had a Chapter of Templars 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. Thory gives the first authentic account, however, and tells us that, about 1728, Sir John Mitchell Ramsay appeared in London with a system of Scottish Masonry, up to that date perfectly unknown in the Metropolis, tracing its origin to the Crusades, and consisting of three degrees—the *Ecossais*, the *Novice*, and the *Knight Templar*. The Grand Lodge of England rejected the system of Ramsay, but, if credit is to be given to a letter from the Duke of Perth to Lord Ogilvie, in 1745, it shone forth for a moment at Holyrood at that date. During his stay in that palace, Charles Edward, better known as the Pretender, is stated to have taken his profession as a Templar, and to have “looked most gallantly in the white robe of the Order,” which is not improbable, as the works of Thory, Clavel, and others, have since proved that, to obtain their objects, the Stuart family made unceasing use of Free Masonry, in all its forms, endeavouring to apply its ancient legends to the modern history of Charles I., and to the cruelty of Cromwell and his confederates.

After the Battle of Culloden, as is well known, Ramsay, along with other adherents of the Stuart Family, transferred his system to the continent, where it became the corner-stone of the high degrees, and the foundation of those innumerable ramifications with which our excellent and naturally simple institution has been very uselessly extended in France, Germany, and other countries abroad. Indeed, Scotland is the very fairy land of Foreign Masonry, and there have been at least a hundred grades of Continental Masonry denominated “*Ecossais*.”

During the whole of the eighteenth century, the Scottish Order can be faintly traced. Mr. Deuchar, however, had, in 1836, the assurance of well-informed Masons, that, thirty or forty years previously, they knew old men who had been members of it for sixty years. At the time of the French Revolution, it had sunk so low that the sentence which the Grand Lodge of Scotland fulminated, in 1792, against all degrees of Masonry except those of St John, was expected to put a period to its existence. At this time some active Masons procured Charters from the Early Grand Encampment of Ireland, and worked under that very doubtful authority.

In 1808, Mr. Deuchar was elected Commander of the Edinburgh Encampment. This led to the return of persons of higher rank to the Order, the rejection of all the Irish Charters, and a resting of claims on the legitimate rights of Scotland, the general belief, and ancient traditions.

In 1811, the Duke of Kent was entreated to become the Patron Protector of the Order in North Britain, and accepted the position, while Mr. Deuchar was made Grand Master for Life. From this time the Order rapidly revived. In 1828, it assumed a new and interesting aspect, from a judicious introduction of the ancient costumes and forms, and the regulation, admitting none but Royal Arch Masons, was strictly enforced in 1836. In this year, Admiral Sir David Milne was elected Grand Master, and Lord Ramsay, afterwards Lord Dalhousie, appointed his Depute; the various offices of the Order being filled by gentlemen generally well known, and of an honorable station in society. In the