

adopted, there appears to have been some who, being in partial possession of the old doctrines, taught them apart from the new ones, which at the time caused some disturbance, but the system of "Hiram" Masonry prevailed, and is the "Free and Accepted" Masonry of to-day, with many alterations, but still in spirit the same.\*

## OF THE TEMPLARS.

We will now turn to the old religious and military Order of the "Knights Templar," which was another branch from the Benedictines, beginning with the "Poor fellow soldiers of Jesus Christ." They became a military monastic order for the protection of pilgrims, and subsequently joined in the wars of the crusades. Like the "Stone Masons," they were in possession of the mysteries as far as each was entitled to receive them, but it was not denominated Masonry, being the true "Mesouranie."

They undoubtedly had another ritual of reception, or initiation, into the usages and customs of Chivalry, which was an outside matter, although in some measure retaining its symbolic teaching, based upon what they had received, but not the same as the mysteries, inasmuch as *they* have nothing in them authorizing war, bloodshed, or violence of any kind. The Order had their profession, vows, degrees of preferment, discipline, punishments, and were strictly religious, trinitarian, and severe, Chivalry being a thing "*per se*."

It is known, to all who have given the subject sufficient thought and research, that the basis of the Order was kept always most sacred, and only imparted to a select few in their secret Conclaves.

"In the beginning of the 17th century persons who were not operatives began to unite with the "Free Masons," and were distinguished from the *working* Masons by the denomination of "*Accepted* Masons." By the year 1702 the lodges decreased, and finally fell into oblivion. It is related by historians, that previous to 1717, so low had Masonry fallen that it was a common thing in passing along the streets of London and Liverpool, particularly by the riverside, to observe large painted signs placed over doors of ale houses and sailors' boarding houses, with the words, "Masons made here for 12 shillings."

Investigation has clearly shown that the present system of degrees is comparatively of modern origin, being totally unknown to the Craft at the time of the revival. Originally there was but *one* degree of initiation, and that an architectural one,—the names E. A., F. C., and M. M., being only the designation of classes of workmen and *not* degrees of initiation. The whole society was composed only of "Fellows," who were received or initiated into the Craft.

The first set of lectures known were arranged by Drs. Anderson and Desaguliers, and made their appearance in 1730. Then, for the first time, we find a division into "three degrees," and the legend of the master builder, Hiram, is one of its distinctive features,—it was very short and comprised the whole *Third* Degree, evidently borrowed from certain tales in the "*Jewish Targum*," published in London, 1715, from a MS. in the University of Cambridge.