

ame to their assistance
 continued on the Standard,
 since that time, always
 with the above initials.
 a settled home, finding
 the Emperor Charles the
 on condition that they
 sh Rovers, who at that
 Sea. These points in
 " and

Knights to this their
 g words of the Order.
 of the Island, they ap-
 vo men to an oar—the
 singing a Psalm in the
 s of the Island seeing
 through a speaking
 ne in peace," replied,
 ne in peace." It is
 n forms of salutation
 Maltese are propelled
 ng up alternately as

d in the introductory
 nstituted at an early
 ne another from the
 nd returning to and

their swords on it,
 ere the heart of the
 crucified, figurative,
 mber five, has also
 icted in one of the
 on the Octagon of
 ation of a ship or
 t. L. D. R. A., one
 , with two handed

s formerly used in
 Var Gallies of the
 ling with those on
 iour's incarnation.
 f death to traitors

of the Order, by the two handed sword which was used by the Ancient Knights. The Spear reminds us of the weapon which pierced the side of our Lord, and the Hand and Viper to the history of St. Paul, in connection with the Island of Malta.

After the conquest of the Island of Malta by Napoleon in 1798, the Order was virtually dissolved and dispersed into independent branches over Europe. The English language was revived as a Protestant body about 60 years ago, and holds its meetings at St. John's Gate House, Clerkenwell, London, devoted to the original purposes of the Order, viz.: relief to the sick and wounded.

The degree now conferred upon you is in no way connected with these branches of the old Political Order. It only preserves the principles of the Ancient Order and the knowledge of the union that took place between the persecuted Templars at their dissolution in the 14th century, and the Knights of St. John, which continued in Scotland as a combined body until the Religious Houses were dispersed at the Reformation.

We thus represent the Ancient Order of St. John, in its connection with the history of the Templars, as a peaceful Christian society, into which we now welcome you as a Brother.

The age and the occasion which give rise to the warlike and adventurous spirit of the Order has long passed away, but its moral and beneficent character still remain—bright in all its primitive beauty as in the days of its greatest glory—and stimulates us to exertion in behalf of the destitute and oppressed; to wield the sword, if called upon, when pure and undefiled religion demands its defence.

The practical lesson to be drawn by us from the study and contemplation of the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of our blessed Saviour will be more particularly brought to your notice during the ceremony of closing the Priory, to which your attention will be presently directed.

END OF LECTURE.

Be seated, Fratres.

