

akin to that which distinguishes to-day our Mystery of Freemasonry. The "tombic" literature of Egypt conclusively proves that the earliest faith of its people included a simple belief in the Divine unity. Dr. Osborn says that their reverence not only excluded images from their temples, but even sculptures both of gods and kings. Their faith was pure, simple, majestic. Even in later times the hymns in honor of Amon, Renouf tells us, are full of expressions closely approaching the language of monotheism. Amon was the *hidden* deity. His priests went so far as to call him the Spirit, "the mysterious soul that is Himself creator of His own dread night." Amon-Ra, the deity worshiped at Thebes, Tiele says, was "the embodiment of the loftiest and purest religious conception ever reached by the Egyptians." Ra was the Sun-god—the expressed image of Divinity; but Amon, or Amon-Ra, was the pure spiritual essence, "the sculptor of all men," who was represented, in His various manifestations of power, by the cloud of deities worshiped at different epochs and places in Egypt. There was thus at the same time monotheism and polytheism prevailing in Egypt. The ignorant masses were polytheists, but the initiates of the Ancient Mysteries were pure monotheists. They worshiped the uncreated, hidden One, at the same time outwardly endeavoring to reconcile their ideas of the unity and spirituality of God with the multiplicity of His manifestations. Most vigorously did they hold to the truth that mind originated the universe, and that the thinking part of man lives on after the death of his body. Our distinguished Brother, the late Dr. Cruicfix, even maintained that the Egyptian priesthood, who were connected with the Ancient Mysteries, invented hieroglyphics and symbols to preserve their occult mysteries for their own initiates, at a time when to openly teach the truth would have perilled life. We believe, with Emerson, that "a good symbol is a missionary to

convince thousands." The Egyptians had the All-seeing Eye to represent Deity; a lighted lamp, the soul; a rising star, the new birth; a feather, truth; a shell, the resurrection; an urn, the cup of immortality; the beetle, regeneration; the triangle, three in one, trinity in unity; and the triple tau, or *crux ansata*, immortal life. What a wealth of symbolism, and how powerful and noble its teaching! Who would deride the Ancient Mysteries, the once pure religious faith of Egypt, after knowledge of these facts? Who would thoughtlessly deny all connection between Freemasonry and the Ancient Mysteries? —*Keystone.*

### THE OTHER SIDE.

#### THE ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE.

The resuscitation of the Sup. Gr. Council for the United States of America, their Territories and Dependencies, has been a fruitful theme for discussion among the members of the Masonic fraternity for the last year past, but for the want of current information many have formed erroneous opinions and have in consequence made many and great mistakes. In order to correct these errors, and for the benefit of all brethren who may feel interested in the subject, the following explanation is given.

The Sup. Gr. Council for the United States of America, their Territories and Dependencies, is not a "New Council" as many have supposed. It was originally established on October 28, 1807, by the Ill. Bro. Joseph Cerneau, under authority derived from the Grand Orient of France, and has had an uninterrupted and unbroken existence of over seventy years, with the exception of a period of four years, commencing in 1828, on account of the Anti-Masonic excitement, and reviving again in 1832 under the Count St. Laurent and Ill. Bro. Elias Hicks.