

THE RED CROSS OF [ROME] AND CONSTANTINE.

It has been a matter of regret to many that the Masonic "Order of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine" has been languishing of late. Although it numbers in its ranks some of the most noble, enthusiastic, and veteran Freemasons in this country and abroad, so far as England is concerned, it has sadly lacked proper or complete organization of late years, and has much needed suitable "head quarters," with a resident Secretary to attend to the correspondence. Under the temporary protecting wing of the proprietor of the *Freemason*, it is hoped that its old and numerous friends will rally round its standard, now again unfurled in the metropolis, and that the needful support (which the genial Sir Knight Dr. W. R. Woodman did not obtain, as he deserved) will now, under more favorable circumstances, be heartily and immediately vouchsafed. The degree prospers in the United States, it did so here within the last twenty years, it did so last century; therefore, why not now?

Amongst its Past Grand Councilors are the Deputy Grand Master of England, Lord Lathom, and many members of the Grand Lodge, the distinguished roll being especially remarkable for the number of Provincial Grand Masters.

The degree, undoubtedly, was working in this country when the two rival Grand Lodges "joined hands, and is, therefore, protected by the Articles of Union, A. D. 1813, (relative to Chivalric degrees). During the last century it was most successful in gathering together some of the brightest of the Craft. Bros. James Heseltine, Past Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England; William Henry White, then Grand Secretary, and James Galloway (one of the leading Royal Companions under the "Moderns") were made Red Cross

Knights by Major Shirreff in 1760.

Lord Buncliff, Prov. G. M. of Leicestershire, was Grand Master of the Red Cross in 1796, as also of the Knights Templar. His lordship was succeeded in 1804 by Judge Waller Rodwell Wright (another Prov. G. M.), and then followed the assumption of the Grand Mastership by H. R. H. the Duke of Sussex, of which honor the members of the degree have naturally long felt proud, the signature of H. R. H. in such a capacity being still preserved. Some claim it was the custom for the degree to be conferred subsequently to the Knight Templar, as an appendage, but this is not correct. Bro. White, the then Grand Secretary of England, became a Red Cross Knight on March 13th, 1809, prior to his exaltation as a Royal Arch Mason, and therefore before he was dubbed a Knight Templar. Those wishing more information on the subject should consult the columns of the defunct *Freemason's Magazine*, Vols. XV. (pp. 502), XVI. (pp. 22 and 102), and XIX. (pp. 208), and the *Freemason*, for 1870, should also be carefully examined. How far the authorities are justified in continuing the name "Constantine" it is not clear, though there are, probably, better reasons for that course than some imagine. The degree bore its present title in 1812, and possibly earlier, and certainly as a matter of right, the members have as much reason to work its ceremonies as any other of the well-known Chivalric degrees.

The continuity of the degree is proved from the fact that the "Revivalists" received the Red Cross from members who were connected with it whilst under H. R. H. the Duke of Sussex. These three brethren were created Knights respectively by Bros. H. Emley (Grand Chancellor, K. T., etc.), Sir J. Doratt, and William Henry White. The latter brother was elected Grand Sovereign, and, as many are aware, much of the success of the "revival" was due to the energy,