

to preserve the secrets of the Order, when, by good conduct and study, they were raised to higher degrees; three officers governed them. The Dionysians then came, and soon spread over a great part of Asia. These Masons erected the most superb edifices, far surpassing any yet seen; they wore jewels similar to ours, and used signs and symbols to recognize each other; they were well known in Egypt, settled in Syria, and brought from Persia specimens of that style which we now call Grecian.

Having thus far traced the progress of the Mysteries amongst the Idolators, Egyptians, and Greeks, I will now proceed to the other great branch of Freemasonry as practiced by the Hebrews. If the Heathens excelled as operative Masons in the science of Architecture, the true believers were not inferior to them in the pure light of speculative Masonry as practiced by the Jewish nation, and from whom we may claim much of our knowledge of the science. With slight reference to Abraham, who, by complying with the will of God in offering his son Isaac, made the first grand offering on record; and of the injunction laid upon Jacob after having fraudulently obtained the blessing intended for Esau, to go to Mesopotamia to take a wife from the family of Laban, and of the favor shown to his son Joseph by inducing Pharaoh to make him second man in Egypt, in which high position he remained until another king commenced to reign, who, not knowing Joseph, began to oppress the people, when God prepared a preserver in the person of Moses, to whom He communicated the knowledge of that name which expresses His eternal attributes, and under whose guidance He delivered His people Israel out of bondage, with a high hand and an outstretched arm; and they being the chosen people, the Almighty thought fit to reveal to them those three excellent institutions, the moral, ceremonial, and judicial law; having called Moses into the Mount, He showed him the model on which the Tabernacle was to be formed, which was afterwards erected in the Wilderness. Under him Joshua fought the battles of the Lord in the Valley of Jehosaphat; and amongst the Elders, who outlived Joshua, Masonry flourished in its purity.

We must now pass over a series of years, in which the Jews were punished for their disobedience, and come to David, who was