

services of the religious houses, until about the period of the Reformation. We may infer that the usages and ceremonies of the Templar Order were preserved from complete annihilation.

This is the theory of the origin of the present Templar Society, known as the "direct descent theory," to distinguish it from that of the Masonic origin of Templary, so frequently and incontestably shown to be a mere fiction.

It certainly bears the mark of reason and probability that some of the members of the Great Order of the Temple at its dissolution found refuge and protection by joining a secret society, with the leading members of which they had been formerly intimate.

#### THE CEREMONIES AND DOCTRINE OF THE UNITED ORDER.

Although the Templar body of to-day cannot prove a direct descent from the Chivalry of the Crusades, its legend and traditions strongly point that way, and in all tradition there lies a germ of truth, we therefore endeavor to imitate and assimilate our ceremonies and practices as closely as possible to that of the Ancient Order, strictly conforming to the doctrines of the Soldiers of the Cross, who fought for the faith on the plains of Palestine.

The ceremonies of the United Orders of the Temple and Hospitallers of Malta, are intended to inculcate the cardinal doctrines of the Christian religion, the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of the Great Captain of our salvation, and a firm belief in the Holy Trinity, one and indivisible, the chief and indistructable characteristic of the Order, without which, in spite of all sophistry and special pleading, no Templary can exist. If any Templar system admits those who reject the Trinity in unity, or Hebrews, who adhere to the Judaical law, they have just as effectually laid aside the principles of the Order, as Orangemen would do, if they opened their doors to Roman Catholics, in fact the instant the Order ceases to be Trinitarian it also ceases to be a true branch of the Templars, and should be treated as such.

#### TEMPLARY OF THE BRITISH DOMINIONS.

In Great Britain and Ireland during the last century, the Chivalric Orders were formally introduced and adopted by the Masonic Fraternity, but altogether as separate and honorary degrees.

At the Union of the English Grand Lodges of 1813, the 2nd article, in defining the degrees of Ancient Masonry, provides for the practice of the Chivalric Orders, in these words:—"But this article is not intended to prevent any Lodge or Chapter from holding a meeting in any of the degrees and orders of Chivalry, according to the constitutions of said orders." Thus acknowledging the alliance, and the historic truth and value of the Chivalric degrees.

Templary then, as now constituted, has become part of the Masonic system, that is to say, the Society is based upon Masonry, in so far that we admit none but such as are Masons, therefore the basis and qualification is Masonic, but properly speaking, is not essentially so, but at the most quasi-Masonic.

The election of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales to be the sole Grand Master of the Order, was strictly in accordance with ancient usage; and the wish to have but one Governing head, (at least over the English speaking branches of the Order) had nothing to do with national or political events, the allegiance being, to the sovereign head of the Order, who might, as of old, be chosen from any nationality. This does not appear to have been generally understood by those brethren who merely looked upon it in a Masonic point of view.

The nationalities of England, Ireland and Canada are justly proud of the honor of having the heir to the Throne as their Supreme Head, and gratified at the interest evinced in the Order by His Royal Brothers, the Duke of Connaught, as Great Prior of Ireland, and Prince Leopold, as Constable of the Great Priory of England, acknowledging with loyal pride the high distinction conferred upon them by Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, declaring herself Patron of the Order.

#### UNITED STATES TEMPLARY.

Our brethren of the United States have taken quite a different view of Templary