

the Templars, sprung from the same origin, yet they were an entirely different class of men, the latter being more fully instructed than the former, which was evinced by their zeal and the military exploits they performed. They persistently stood aloof from any connection with mechanical laborers.

In the ancient Templar Order there was a "*Secret basis*," under the form of a ritual, which was always kept most sacred, and imparted or entrusted to a very select few, who were believers in Revelation, and who have by their succeeding generations transmitted the same, although but little known or understood at the present day. The "*lower class*" of the Order never attained or were admitted to a full knowledge of these matters, and were confined to the initiatory and perhaps a little more. The basis of the Order—the mysteries of the Christian faith—was never intended to be made public, or to be used in common; hence very few passed through the first stage during a life-time.

The Order of the Temple was dispersed in the 13th century through treachery and falsehood, and was apparently destroyed. Their Grand Master, "Jacques de Molai," and his companions in suffering were Templars in full, dying in the Faith; but some had escaped, uniting with the Knights of St. John (Malta). Through this small remnant, almost miraculously saved, the doctrines of the Ancient Order were preserved, and continued in our modern United Orders of the Temple and Malta, where the ceremonial observed, until of late years, combined the two Orders, but it has very properly been again separated to show the distinctive formula of each. *

The Templar Order with which we are most familiar is chiefly of a military character, and shows but little connection with the original basis. In the United States it appears in the "Rose Croix" and "Kadosh" †; in other lands in various forms, in all of which there

* It may not be generally known that the opening and closing ceremonies in our Ritual of Malta (long used in Scotland) are precisely similar to those of the Craft, or St. John's Masonry in the middle of the last century, bearing evidence of its early Christian character. Belief in God is essential in all its degrees, and, in the early days of Operative Masonry, required a profession of belief in the Trinity; but, since the union of the English Grand Lodges in 1813, it has simply required the assurance of a belief in the "Universal" God. Not so the Chivalric Orders, which strictly retain the ancient doctrine.

† The "Kadosh" is claimed as being the true Order of the Temple, whereas it is nothing of the kind, being merely a memorial service intended to keep alive the recollection of the violent suppression of the Order, quite another thing from our Templar installation, which is supposed to show forth the mode of *creating* a Knight Templar. The one is the *beginning*, and the other the *end*—the "Alpha and Omega" of the Templar Order.

In Ireland the Templar qualification is required of candidates for the "Rose Croix," known as "Prince Masons."