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EARLY RELIGIOUS CHARACTER OF FREEMASONRY.

The report of foreign correspondence of the Grand Commandery of Ohio, from the pen of R. E. Sir Enoch T. Carson, of this city, has called out the following editorial article in the London *Freemason*, and Bro. Carson has also furnished us with his reply, which we append. The *Freemason* says :

Our esteemed Bro. Macleod Moore, who is an excellent and cultivated Freemason, and the gallant Grand Prior of Canada, has recently, in a public address, endorsed Bro. E. T. Carson's historical account of the Templar organization in this country, which, we have already pointed out, is altogether based on an entirely erroneous statement of evidence, or rather positively on no evidence at all; and for fear that, resting on such high authority and such friendly "sheep-walking," other Masonic writers and students should be misled, we think it right to enter a protest once more against this unhistorical way of writing history, this uncritical dealing with professedly absolute facts. In order that there may be no mistake in the matter, we reproduce here, once again, Bro. Carson's original assertion as handed on by Bro. Macleod Moore. It is as follows: "On the 29th of September, 1721, the Grand Lodge of England authorized Bro. the Rev. James Anderson, M. A., to revise and com-

plete the history and regulations of the existing old constitutions. Freemasonry having fallen into such decay, it was comparatively easy to make radical changes in its organization. It would appear that Bro. Anderson, in fulfilling the duty confided to him, went beyond his authority and made new changes quite unknown before, reorganizing the institution, which, after some amendments, was formally approved and adopted in 1723, and became known as the New Constitutions. This subsequently gave rise to much dissatisfaction among some of the brethren, the principal cause appearing to be that the rigidly Christian character of the Fraternity had been abandoned, and a Unitarian element introduced. Consequently those members who were Churchmen, wishing to preserve its early Christian features, without severing themselves from the Craft, formed societies secretly attached to the Lodges, in which the ceremonies of the obsolete Order of Knights Templar was conferred upon all Masons desirous of receiving it, thus preserving that belief amongst them which had been previously taught in all the old Craft Lodges, so fully expressed in the opening sentences of the old constitutions, viz.: 'The might of the Father in Heaven, with the wisdom of His glorious Son, and goodness of the Holy Spirit, three persons in one Godhead.'" And our Bro. Macleod Moore adds: "Our