

esoteric character of the Order only from the workings of the ritual of the present time, and who has not penetrated into its history and aspect in former days, these legends will be new and ought to be, therefore, of interest.

It will be seen, in the course of our investigations, that some of these old legends have entirely passed away. They have become, in the strictest sense of the term, obsolete, and have left no trace behind. Others, again, have been partially preserved in some reference to them in a word, a sign, or a ceremony in the modern ritual which serves, therefore, to still connect them, in an incomplete way, with the symbolism which now constitutes the true genius and spirit of Freemasonry.

The earliest of these legends is that of Lamech. It is found in all the old Constitutions of the Operative Masons, and is there placed at the very beginning of their record of the origin of the art. It is most comprehensively given in the Grand Lodge Manuscript, which is of the middle of the seventeenth century, and is in the following words, the antiquated language being slightly improved and the bad spelling of proper names, especially, being corrected :

Before Noah's flood, there was a man who was called Lamech, as it is written in the Bible, in the 4th chapter of Genesis, and this Lamech had two wives, the one called Adah and the other called Zillah. By the first wife, Adah, he begat two sons, and the one he called Jabal and the other Jubal; and by the other wife, Zillah, he begat a son and a daughter, and these four children invented the beginning of all the crafts in the world. And this elder son, Jabal, invented the craft of Geometry, and he divided flocks of sheep and lands in the field, and first wrought houses of stone and trees, as it is noted in the chapter above said. And his brother Jubal invented the craft of music, song of tongue, harp and organ. And the third brother, Tubal Cain, invented smith's craft of gold, silver, and copper, iron and steel. And the daughter invented the craft of weaving. And these children knew well that God would take vengeance for sin either by fire or water, wherefore they wrote their sciences that they had invented on two pillars of stone, that they might be found after Noah's flood. And the one stone was marble, for that will not burn with any fire, and the other stone was called latres [brick] for that would not drown in water.

This legend cannot be older than the fifteenth century, for it is not alluded to in the Halliwell MS., whose date is supposed to be the latter part of the fourteenth. It is first met with in the Cooke MS., whose date is placed about 1490, and is repeated in all the subsequent Constitutions. The first book that incorporated the old legends into the history of Masonry after the Revival, or, rather, after the separate establishment of Speculative Masonry, is the "Constitutions" of Dr. Anderson, published in 1723, and he, although by no means discrete in his selection of legends, has very briefly referred to parts of this. So, the Masons not being familiar with the Old Records, the legend of Lamech passed entirely out of sight, and in none of the rituals, from 1725 to the present day, do we find any record of it as a whole. References to a part of it are, however, preserved. The name of Tubal Cain is still perpetuated, as it is well known, in the Symbolic degrees, and he is very generally regarded as one of the founders of Masonry. How this mistake originated, it is impossible to say, but it will probably never be corrected. The legend itself does not make Tubal Cain the inventor of Masonry, but ascribes that honor to Jabal. It says: "Jabal first wrought houses of stone." The Cooke MS. is still more definite. Its language is as follows:

The elder son, Jabal, was the first man that ever invented Geometry and Masonry, and he made houses, and is named in the Bible . . . the father of men dwelling in tents, that is, dwelling houses. And he was Cain's Master Mason and governor of all his works when he made the city of Enoch.

Notwithstanding the positive statement of the old legend, that Jabal was the founder of Masonry, that theory has been rejected. Jabal has passed entirely out of Masonic history. His name is not to be found in any ritual, and all the honor that belonged really to him has been transferred to his brother, Tubal Cain, who is now considered by the Craft as their earliest patron, although he was not a Mason, but simply a smith, or worker in metals.

It is worth noticing that a similar error occurs in the still retained legends of the Solomonic Temple, where Hiram Abif, who, like Tubal Cain, was only a worker in metals, and not a stone mason, is called the Master Builder of the Temple. The coincidence is striking, and the problem is one not easily to be solved, why, in both the older and newer Masonry, a silversmith should have been called a Mason and a builder.

That part of the legend which refers to the two pillars has not become altogether obsolete. Although no longer to be found in the ritual of Ancient Craft Masonry, the myth, somewhat changed and embellished, is referred to in some of the high degrees.

There is another legend which has gone entirely out of sight. It is of Nimrod, King of Babylon, who is said to have built the tower of Babel, and to have employed