

our Modern Grand Lodges of Freemasonry consider the Templar dogmas as glaring innovations upon Symbolic Masonry. This is clearly shown in a pamphlet printed in London so far back as 1796 called "Freemasonry, or a word to the wise, being a vindication of the science as practised by the Grand Lodge of England." Templary therefore in the Empire is only recognized as "quasi Masonic," from being allied to it as an additional degree for about a century past, and it never obtained recognition as such save at "York" with the Royal Arch in 1780.

XX. It may be interesting to know that the device of the "Crescent Moon and Star" on the Mahomedan standards, and frequently seen on Irish Masonic medals with other emblems, is an insignia of the old military Templars, which when the victorious Turks had seized the ancient city of Byzantium—now Constantinople—from the Greeks, they had adopted. It appears on the silver coins struck by King John of England for the coinage of Ireland. A connection had existed between the Templars and such religious houses as the "Augustine Friars," established in Ireland, and the Knights had materially assisted King John.

In the proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, a year or two ago, it is stated that recent excavations in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, discovered bronze ornaments, representations of the "Star" and "Crescent Moon," with a "cross," which probably were worn by the Knights 500 years ago, whose remains are buried in the crypts. It is also to be seen as a Christian symbol in parts of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Sepulchres containing the remains of the old Knights Templar, on being examined, have been found to contain relics that justify the name—such as small cube, or oblong stones, near the skeleton—evidently buried with them to represent "the small white stone" of the New Testament, denoting a "Belief and Hope in Christ." Unfortunately, many interesting facts that would exemplify ancient Templar history, have been so mystified by "Masonic fear" of betraying secrets (?) where none exist, that many of them have been lost sight of. It was an oversight of the revivalists introducing the "Star of Bethlehem," a purely Christian symbol, into Craft Freemasonry.

XXI. The true badge of the Templars is the White Mantle and blood red Cross of Martyrdom, worn only within the precincts of the Preceptory, with the representation of the bright "Morning Star of Bethlehem."