

byterians and Episcopalians. Nevertheless, the Order, though it included within its bosom, characters whose views, designs and sentiments were utterly opposite; yet it has maintained its integrity in the midst of times the most troublesome, and the most tumultuous. For these divisions could never ferment in a Society, where party doctrines never became the subjects of dispute. A Society instituted for the purpose of keeping peace amongst the Brethren, could not, and ought not embrace any party. The fierce and angry language of debate were banished the Lodges. It reunited all parties without forming any of its own. Under such wise and wholesome regulations the Society of York Masons preserved inviolate their most Ancient System. Till in the year 1702, the age and infirmities of our celebrated Grand Master Sir C. Wren, brought along with them a gradual inattention to the Lodges, and at length the annual festivals were entirely neglected.

With this illustrious period decayed the pride and glory of Ancient Masonry. Novel forms of Doctrine crept into the institution in lieu of those which were sanctioned by the most venerable Antiquity.—Modern Taste corrupted the genuine pile, by which the necessary attendants of Revolutionary plans were introduced, the composite mass of Modern Phrase, and Modern discipline.

However the Ark has not been lost, though it
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