

longer permitted him to wield. The death soon after of the Duke of Leinster, the venerable and venerated Grand Master of Ireland, coupled with Lord Ripon's dimission, cast a pall of gloom over the prospects of British Freemasonry. But the darkness was soon dispelled and the outlook became brighter than ever when the vacant Grand Mastership of England was accepted by the Prince of Wales, and that of Ireland by the Duke of Abercorn, Lord Lieutenant. The thunders of the Papal church against Freemasonry, as a band of revolutionary conspirators, have been effectually silenced, and the Pope's infallibility will be sorely tried in attempting to explain how conspirators should select as their leaders those against whom they were conspiring. The heir to the throne in England and the vice-gerent of the sovereign in Ireland would scarcely be found at the head of a conspiracy against the government.—A. G. Mackey in *Voice of Masonry*.

THE MASONIC RITES AND DEGREES.

(Continued.)

"THE PRIMITIVE AND ORIGINAL RITE" OF SYMBOLIC FREEMASONRY, COMMONLY CALLED THE "SWEDENBORGIAN RITE."

It consists of Six Degrees, which are classified as follows:—

- 1.—ENTERED APPRENTICE.
- 2.—FELLOW CRAFT.
- 3.—MASTER MASON.
- 4.—ENLIGHTENED FREEMASON, OR GREEN BROTHER.
- 5.—SUBLIME FREEMASON, OR BLUE BROTHER.
- 6.—PERFECT FREEMASON, OR RED BROTHER.

The first, then, are simply the common degrees of the "York Rite." The other three form the higher degrees of the Swedenborgian Rite, and distinctively constitute the "Primitive and Original Rite of Symbolic Masonry." It has two grand divisions:

I.—York Rite, or Temple Masonry, of three degrees, being an embodiment of the Ancient and Original Ritual, and dating back to the period of building Solomon's Temple.

II.—Swedenborgian Rite of Symbolic Masonry, of three degrees, being the original model of all forms of Ancient Ritual, and dating back to the period *preceding* the building of Solomon's Temple.

The Swedenborgian Rite is worked in the same lodges and with the same furniture and jewels as the York Rite, with a few exceptions. The officers are similarly stationed, and rank similarly. Every candidate is required to be a Master Mason of the York Rite. There are some radical points in which this Rite differs from the common usage of the present day. Its work is the same as was in use in the aristocratic and best informed lodges in the North of Europe, and in Germany, *before* the revision of the work in England in the 1717. These lodges were very exclusive, and none were admitted but men of high rank, and Masons of eminent merit, so that the work did not undergo any radical change from forgetfulness in ignorant minds, nor from mistakes made by uneducated persons, in the pronunciation of important words and phrases. By means of the latter degrees of this Rite any and every Mason will readily detect the errors which have sprung up in our modern system, and see where subjects have been displaced and erroneously arranged: those of the 3rd degree being in the 2nd and *vice versa*. From a variety of causes the three degrees of the York Rite have their elements disarranged, and mixed up in matters which are *absolutely fundamental*. All such errors are in the Swedenborgian Rite explained and cleared up in the most satisfactory and convincing manner.

In this Rite the word Freemason is always spelled "Phremason," the meaning of which word is "a blind man searching for the light."

NOTES ON CHIVALRIC MASONRY AS PRACTISED IN CANADA.

The Red Cross of Constantine consists of Three Grades, the Grand Cross, and Appendant Orders of the Holy Sepulchre.

1. THE NOVITIATE CROSS.—This Grade was founded by Constantine, the Great Roman Emperor, A. D. 313, as a memorial of the Divine Miracle which effected his