

THE MYSTERIES OF FREEMASONRY.

Showing from the Origin, Nature and Object of the Rites and Ceremonies of Remote Antiquity, their Identity with the Order of Modern Free-Masonry.

COMPILED FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES BY R. W. BRO. OTTO KLOTZ.

"If circumstances lead me, I will find
Where Truth is hid, though it were hid indeed
Within the centre. —SHAKESPEARE.

[Continued.]

THE BOOK, THE SQUARE AND THE COMPASSES.

The ancient Egyptians placed the square and compasses in the hands of Anubis or Horus, to warn the husbandmen to be in readiness to measure their lands, to take angles, in order to distinguish them from the lands of others.

The statues whose hands and feet are frequently swathed, and which are found in the cabinets of our virtuoso, are no other than the statues of Osiris, Isis and Horus, such as they were to the people at the time of the inundation. There was nothing then to be done, and the inaction was universal. The entire cessation of the rural work could not be better intimated than by a Horus swathed or deprived of the use of his feet by the inundation, and using only his arm to point out the measure of the water, a vane to show the winds, another instrument to take angles and a horn to proclaim the general surveying.

The inventor of the square and compasses is said to be Daedalus. Daedalus however was the name given to Anubis when he was represented with large hawk's wings, which was done when the water in the Nile had risen to a sufficient height to ensure a plentiful harvest. And since the Egyptians in subsequent years mistook the symbol of Osiris, Isis and Anubis for real persons, which had formerly lived among them (as has been shown before) it is easily explained how it came to ascribe to Daedalus the invention of the square and compasses. The square was in Egypt an emblem of Justice, because it was the means by which was ascertained the boundaries of lands that had been obscured or carried away by the inundation.

In the solemn processions of the Egyptians one of the officers, the Hierogrammatist, or sacred scribe, wore two feathers on his head and in his hands a Book and a ruler, to which were added the instruments of writing, some ink and a reed. The book contained the laws of Egypt, relating to sacrifices and other matters appertaining to religion.

A POINT WITHIN A CIRCLE.

The tribes contiguous to Judea, placed a jod in the centre of a circle as a symbol of the Deity, surrounded by eternity, of which he was said to be the inscrutable author, the ornament and support. The *Samothracians* had a great veneration for the circle, which they considered as consecrated by the universal presence of the deity and hence rings are distributed to the initiated as amulets possessed of the power of averting danger.

The *Chinese* used a symbol which bore a great resemblance to the circle with a point in the centre. This symbol was a circle, bounded north and south by two serpents, equivalent to the two perpendicular parallel