

educated by them gradually withdrew from the Monastic community, which resulted in the formation of Guilds."

"The lodge at Strasboursch Cathedral, in Germany, was the first in that country to assume the name of 'Free Masons.' The earlier lodges or associations, which were under the guidance of the Monks, were termed 'Fraternities' of this or that Saint. Prior to 1440 the parent society of Masons at Strasboursch bore the title of 'Brothers of St. John.'"

"They assembled together in 1459 and resolved to renew and revise their Ancient Constitutions. Their articles began, 'in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.' The Guilds, on their separation from the cloister, very naturally retained the peculiar ceremonial of the Monastic lodges, obviously an imitation of the initiation formerly practised in the Order of the 'Benedictines.'"

"In the beginning of the 17th century Masons who were not operative began to unite with the 'Free Masons.' They were distinguished from the working Masons by the denomination 'Accepted Masons.'"

"By the year 1702 the lodges decreased, and finally almost passed into oblivion. It is related by historians that previous to the year 1717 so low had Masonry fallen, that it was a common thing in passing along the streets of London and Liverpool, particularly by the river side, to observe large painted signs placed over the doors of sailors' boarding houses and low drinking dens, 'Masons made here for twelve shillings.'"

"In 1721 the work was revised by 'Anderson and Desaguliers,' forming the great Epoch in Masonry, at which time the doctrine of the Holy Trinity was abandoned and the Institution made Deistical."

#### SECOND EPOCH—1730.

At this time great dissatisfaction began to make its appearance. Many of the brethren began to hold private lodges and to make Masons without

a Warrant of Constitution. They were very successful. Another serious cause of complaint was the publication of a book in England denominated "Prichard's Masonry Dissected," or a full revelation of "Masonic Secrets." It sold very readily, passed through more than twenty large editions, and made at the time a great deal of noise. Book Masons became abundant. Lodges based upon this publication sprang up at the side of regular lodges, creating great trouble. There was still another cause of dissatisfaction, viz.: the "Grand Lodge of England," and the "Grand Lodge of all England." These troubles culminated in

#### "THE GRAND EPOCH—1739."

In this year the great change in "Free and Accepted Masonry" was made. In consequence of the constant innovations made by "Book Masons," etc., the Grand Lodge determined to alter the landmarks of the Order, revising the first and second "tokens," and adding the Fellow Craft's "Pass," and making an entire new word for the Master's substitute, also the Pass. In consequence of this alteration a large secession from the Grand Lodge took place. They at once announced independency, and assumed the name of "Ancients," holding fast the old work, while they gave the name of "Moderns" to the Grand Lodge which had changed the landmarks, and adopted new plans, etc.

These matters should be clearly understood, as out of them sprung up two distinct parties in Masonry, viz.: the "Ancients" and the "Moderns," which parties continued in existence for the better part of a century, viz.: until 1812-13.

In 1752 the Holy Royal Arch Degree was introduced into the system by the "Ancients," and adopted by the "Moderns" in 1777.

#### THIRD EPOCH—1813.

Union of the Moderns and the Ancients into one Grand Lodge.