

The American Masonic Degree of the Red Cross.

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INTRODUCTION.

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It has been considered advisable to copy from the authorized rituals of the Grand Encampment of the U. S., and insert with our Templar ritual, the Degree known as the "Red Cross," which is peculiar to the American Masonic system, and is not practised outside of the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of the United States, where it is conferred as the preliminary degree and pass to their Masonic Knights Templar.

This degree forms no part whatever of our Templar system and never could have had any connection with the Religious and Military Orders of the Temple and Hospital we represent, the incidents recorded in the degree having taken place centuries before the Christian era.

It is therefore *entirely optional* with the members of of Canadian Preceptories to receive the degree, which is permitted to be conferred, or the essentials communicated in our Preceptories in the same way as any other Masonic side degrees unconnected with the United Orders, for the information of the members to enable them to gain admittance when visiting United States Commanderies, without which they would find difficulty in accomplishing.

The original from which the American Red Cross was fabricated is the "Babylonish pass or Knight of the Sword and East," introduced into Great Britain and