

ORIGIN OF THE CONNECTION OF TEMPLARY WITH MASONRY BEFORE THE
REVIVAL, OF 1717.

The prevailing religion of the Middle Ages was Roman Catholic, in which all the acts of its votaries aimed at the "Glory of God." There were *two* branches of this class, the *one*, who devoted their attention to the erection of great church edifices for *His* worship, houses for religious worship as monasteries, extending up to the 12th century, and which afterwards became independent of monasteries and merged into Guilds, though retaining strictly their religious character and doctrine up to 1721, at which time they had taken the name of "Free and Accepted Masons," when the whole system was altered, and which has continued to strengthen ever since. The *other*, taking care of the sick, protecting pilgrims to the holy places and to the performance of military exploits, yet actuated by the same motives as the former.

The Order of Hospitalers of St. John, from which sprang the Military Order of the Templars, in the 11th century, arose out of the "Sacred Mysteries"—that was the basis—the doctrine—but the "technology" or ritual of the order was an outside matter, although in some degree retaining its symbolical teaching.

In the same way, the Builders of Religious Houses arose out of the "Sacred Mysteries," in both instances out of the Order of "Benedictine" Monks, who came into existence during the early centuries of the Christian dispensation, and from the beginning had devoted themselves to "Sacred Sciences and the Preservation of the Mysteries."

The Builders and Templar Order were strictly believers in revealed religion, but while the Builders or Masons kept on in the doctrines of Christ up to the re-construction, after the revival, Templary, "holding fast to what it had received," ever maintained its integrity.

There were remnants of the Templar doctrines left with the Builders, which, when the Lodges of "Anderson" were established in England, held Lodges of their own outside of the authorized Lodges, and in which they retained their old doctrines and usages.*

Although the Architects or Builders, the Knights of St John, and

* The accurate and erudite editor of the London *Freemason* insists that Brother Carson's (of Ohio) account of the existence in England of the Templar organization connected with Freemasonry, about 1730, cannot be accepted as authentic, but must still remain a "crux," as he delights to call it.

Although no positive historical record appears to have been as yet produced, are we not justified in believing the assertion of the late Dr. Burnes, in his History of the Order, as also that of Grand Master Deuchar, of the Scottish Templars, quoted in notes to my allocution of last year? I think so.

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