

THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM.

AN INTERESTING INVESTITURE.

There is no more romantic or inspiring story in the records of the Middle Ages than that of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem which had its origin in a hospital founded in Jerusalem 1050 A.D., by some rich merchants of Amalfi, for the care of the sick during the crusades, and which they associated with the name of St. John the Almoner. Throughout the centuries the Order of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes, and of Malta, which enrolled Sisters, as well as brethren, demonstrated the Christian virtues, and we are told in "A History of Nursing" (Nutting and Dock), that during the impressive ceremonies with which a Knight was received into the Order the black robe was thrown over him, and pointing to the white linen cross of eight points the brethren said, "We wear this white cross as a sign of purity. Wear it also within thy heart as well as outwardly, and keep it without soil or stain. The eight points are the signs of the eight beatitudes which thou must ever preserve, viz., (1) spiritual joy; (2) to live without malice; (3) to weep over thy sins; (4) to humble thyself to those who injure thee; (5) to love justice; (6) to be merciful; (7) to be sincere and pure of heart; (8) to suffer persecution."

A proof of the amazing vitality of the Order, which has undergone various vicissitudes is that a pilgrimage of members of the Order in England is taking place to sites of its former activities, and it is of extraordinary interest to read an account given by the special correspondent of *The Times* at Jerusalem, that on March 15th, Lord Scarborough constituted, at Government House, a Chapter General of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England for the purpose of holding a ceremonial Investiture.

This picturesque solemnity followed an impressive corporate Communion on Sunday morning in the crypt-like subterranean church of Mar Hanna, under the Orthodox Convent of St. John the Baptist (the sole church of the pre-Crusade period surviving in the Muristan area, and formerly the site of the famous Hospital and headquarters of the Order of St. John in the Twelfth Century), and a subsequent parade and service

for the pilgrims at the Anglican Cathedral, to which the members of the Order moved in procession from the adjoining St. George's School. Medieval memories were aroused as the Sub-Prior, preceded by the Cross, the Sword of State, and the banner of the Order, and a long array of black-mantled knights swept under the archway into the picturesque cloister quadrangle in front of the Cathedral, and moved up after the Anglican Bishop, who is Sub-Prelate of the Order, to the Chancel, beyond which the venerable bearded figure of Monseigneur Damianos, Patriarch of Jerusalem and Honorary Sub-Prelate, was visible seated in the sanctuary close to the altar.

For the ceremony Field-Marshal Lord Plumer, himself a Knight of Grace, placed at the disposal of the Sub-Prior the Throne Room at Government House, on the Mount of Olives, a building which was originally the German Hospice, and was finished just before the War.

The Sub-Prior was seated on a dais, supported by the High Commissioner, and the Secretary General of the Order, backed by a semicircle of mantled Knights in full dress uniform, and in the presence of a remarkable assembly of the ecclesiastical, consular, and official worlds, and of local notables, invested 19 persons, with the insignia of the various grades. Among those as Knights of Grace were Lieut.-Col. Strathearn, Warden of the Ophthalmic Hospital of the Order at Jerusalem, and Colonel G. W. Heron, Director of Public Health. The Ladies of Grace were Mrs. Strathearn, Miss Newton and Lady Storrs, who was invested in recognition of her work in the training of Moslem women as midwives and monthly nurses for service in harems.

The visit of the pilgrims to the Holy City concluded with a reception by the Sub-Prior at the Ophthalmic Hospital.



Habit of Religious Sisters of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in the Hospital of Beaulieu before the taking of Rhodes.

At the Historic Pageant and Masque in London in 1911, Mrs. de Segundo appeared in the procession of saintly women and the Nursing Orders, in the habit of a Religious Sister of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, as depicted above. The robe, as worn before the taking of Rhodes, was red with a black mantle, both bearing the distinctive eight-pointed cross. After the siege of Rhodes the robe was black.

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