

brother or of Palestine

My dear Sir & Brother -

I have read with much pleasure in to day's Freeman, your note - It lets Mr Little show that any Knight Grand Cross of any Order that ever existed in Europe, possessed at any time the power to found a branch of an order in his own or another country, to which he was a Knight Grand Cross - It is absurd - It is ridiculous - It is even if we suppose for a moment that Justiniani really founded a branch of the Constantinian Order, to which it is said on his own only testimony that he belonged, in England, do you think for a moment that he would not mention such an extraordinary fact in his History of the Chivalric Order of Christendom? Mr. Little is very unfortunate that both the Abbe Suardiani and the Bishop Eusebius, wrote books, of which it is clearly proved his assertions are the production of his own imagination. I had no letter yet from the Italian minister - I wonder if Count Maffei made a blunder in his interview with Little, or if he's absent from town, and the Minister awaits his return - But even if Mr. Little will claim descent from the Roman-Imperial institution, the proper man to ask recognition is Francis II of Naples, not Victor Emmanuel of Italy - As I wrote to you before, Francis II. has no right whatever in our Order - I laughed when I read Mr. Little's reply to day - He is a poor historian indeed, fancy to bring as a testimony of his assertions a second rate book numbered 32 years ago, containing neither documentary evidence, reference, or any trustworthy testimony - And even that great and mighty book which says, It is, simply that a ~~conferred~~ degree called a Chevalier Templier Eussay de la croix Rouge, ou de Rome & de Constantin de &c. It does not bring any proof of its descent from Constantin, or of its representing to day the Order of Constantin - Does it contain the history of that degree, and does it say that it was instituted by Constantin? It might have been established, in the same way that any band of Freemasons might establish a Masonic Order in imitation of a really historical public Order.

I wonder why I never saw the book

The book gives simply the ritual of the Order & it is existed then in Scotland, as it might give the ritual of any other Masonic Order existing - We did not deny the existence of a "Red Cross" Order at the time of 1808 & of the Duke of Sussex which might also have been called of Lombardine and we do not require documents of lodges at that time, but we wish documentary evidence, clearly proving its descent from the real Order of Knights of St. George from which (Little says) it descends and not only descends, but which represents now - What we care of pencil markings ^{with the documents} ~~with the documents~~ seven by seven years ago, which after all may be a forgery - What Mr Little must prove is, when first was established in England ^{the Order} and by whom? If Mr Little was to say that from documents in his possession ^(which is shown to another) ~~the~~ an Peter Bessie the title of "Red Cross of Rome and Lombardine" was worked in England 100 years ago, but that he does not ^{know} when it first originally I write, nor have to say against it a single word, and the purchase of it for three hundred units purchase a genuine article - but certainly it is very absurd as his part to claim such a high descent without any proof but some marks on waste paper dated "the beginning of this century, and to sell the whole of the honour to any body who will give a pound or so - Really it is as surprising how people can

found in England who can be imposed so easily on
real of which is attached to the document addressed
Mr. Wright to Mr. de la Cerna, and Mr. Little describe
reliably. ^{or better than a fair mile?} because it is the one from which the
seal actually used by their sovereign and printed
the title page of their report, it is not the seal
of the great Byzantine eagle. It is senseless
everything relating to the Order - Really ^{the} Little
ought never to have dared to print such documents,
and then say "This will probably settle the question
to the identity of the "Red Cross" Masonic Order
with the Constantinian Order - Does he think they
are fools? and are really Masons, who can be
deceived by such ~~documents~~ ^{proof} in defence
of the Order? - As regards the utility which he mentions,
might say that he has got rid of such
at such a date ^(of course older than the present one?) which are the disposal of
papers or any other. But he who would like to
them, although not belonging to the Order. In
such circumstances, every can be put aside
the goods of an Order ~~cannot~~ ^{can} clearly
shown - Here he is a usual two or three hundred
years ago. It is well being such, then, ^{unintentionally}
might make us believe that a Masonic
letter for ^{exists then} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{name} ^{of} ^{the} ^{Order} ^{is} ^{descended}
Constantine, and that the present one is descended
from it - You have asked for documents of more
than a few years ago &c. - And what he brings?
one pencil memorandum written outside of
documents dated 1812, and which prove nothing
of genuine - The other document of Mr. Wright
the worst evidence against himself, because it
mentions a "Red Cross" Order ^{any}

not of a Red Cross Order of Renee and Constantinople
we never denied ^{the existence} a Red Cross Order, ^{perhaps of Byzantine or of} a Masonry
but we deny that of an order claiming descent
from that instituted by Constantine the Great.
I wonder why the undersigned Mr. Little has not
consulted an Order, having a base the buildings of
the Temple of Saint Sophia at Constantinople
by the Emperor Justinian, the Greek - Turkish
considered Saint Sophia greater in every respect
to that of Jerusalem built by Solomon, as he
moved it when he exclaimed at the inaugu-
ration of Saint Sophia "I have conquered
Thee O Solomon," ΝΕΚΙΝΚΑ ΟΣ ΖΟΧΟΜΩ. — But enough.
I hope you will write an article, which ^{will} be better
in place Mr. Little's "great historical monuments" and
a venerable document, & — I don't know how to improve —
— excuse haste — I hope you will be able to read this.
I am going to Edinburgh on Wednesday to
remain for a day or two — If you hear any-
thing to write me, please address you letter
to me at "The Douglas Hotel", Saint Andrew
Square where I suppose to stay — If I can
do anything for you there, command me,
Yours fraternally & gratefully
Rhodanthe

2 April 1870
Park Bank House

R. Wood Esq F.S.A. R.R.S. 2.
Theobald

The festival of Saint Michael on the 8/20 November, which
on Order of Saint Michael was also instituted