

EXPLANATION OF THE FIRST R. C. OBLIGATION, by Ill Bro. J. P. Henderson, 30^o

E.& P. P. You are now aware that you have been admitted to a Christian order in Masonry in which you have taken an Obligation on the H. & U. Trinity. You will no doubt have noticed that there is no penalty in your obligation - your promise as a Christian being sufficient.

There are two Christian Orders in Masonry with which you may come in contact, the other being the K. T., which is based upon the Christianity of the Crusades, and may be likened to active Christian Masonry; whereas this degree is based upon the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Our Lord, and may be likened to contemplative or mystical Christian Masonry in which we look for the LOST WORD.

We learn that "In the beginning was the Word" - What Word? The ancients called it YAHWEY and later we learn "The word was GOD" in this ceremony we discover the Word - It is E--- --1.

During the Intermediate Degree you were given the sign in the 17th degree by placing the arms in the form of a St. Andrew's Cross.

Again later in the Accolade and the explanation of the collar you were given the sign with the arms crossing in the form of two St. Andrew's Crosses. We may thus take this cross as the sign of this degree.

St. Andrew was the first disciple of our Lord who brought his brother Simon Peter to Jesus Christ. St. Andrew preached extensively in Asia Minor and in Greece and was ultimately crucified in Patras on a diagonal cross with the arms and legs extended in the form of St. Andrew's Cross.

As in other degrees in Masonry there is a Fire which you will receive here for the first time. It is based on the St. Andrew's Cross and is given SILENTLY and with REVERENCE. It signifies our faith in our Risen Lord - Our Gt. E.

To make this sign touch LS. RH. RS. LH. and then look and point forward to the WAY we are to go :- TO OUR Gt. E.