

from the shame of thinking evil, and be more zealous to promote justice. In these days of superior civilization, the Sermon on the Mount should be regnant, in all Christian countries certainly, and nowhere more so than in Freemasonry. Mercy, Peace and Truth, are dominant features in its plan; to hide these, or to mock them, by entertaining unjust suspicions, and necessarily, unjust conclusions, is to perpetuate a fraud for which apology or repentance is a poor excuse.—*The Liberal Freemason*.

### IS IT JUSTIFIABLE?

The Triennial of the Grand Encampment, to be held at San Francisco in August next, will doubtless be the occasion of a large gathering of the members of the Templar Order. The time and place of meeting, together with the low rates of transportation, will stimulate an attendance much beyond what was at first counted upon. Several Commanderies from the Western, Middle, and Eastern States, will be present as organizations, and individual members of the Order will, in many cases, be accompanied by their relatives or friends, so that the aggregate of visitors to the Pacific Coast on the occasion of the Triennial will probably be numbered by thousands.

In view of this prospective gathering, and the expense it will entail upon individuals and Commanderies, some adverse criticism is expressed in certain quarters. The CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN estimates that ten thousand Knights Templars will attend the Triennial at San Francisco, and that the cost per man can not be less than three hundred dollars. The total expense is therefore three millions of dollars, "tossed away for a pleasant trip and gorgeous pageant" according to the thought of our esteemed contemporary. The CRAFTSMAN also wants to know how great a sum is devoted to the widows and orphans of the departed brethren,

and asks if the still small voice of conscience does not whisper a warning note in the Templar's ear. With such words before us we are moved to raise the question placed at the head of this article: Is it justifiable?

We make no issue with the proposition that there is an undue tendency to display, "pilgrimages," and pageants, on the part of American Knights Templars. This tendency needs to be guarded against and restrained. We must also needs allow that the offerings made by members of the Order for the purposes of benevolence are sometimes less generous than they should be, and that the moral and religious precepts of Templary are not always practically followed. With all this admitted, it may still be said that Knights Templars represent a worthy and charitable element of society—that for the most part they are large minded and generous hearted men, who, as Masons and individuals, do their full share in helping to relieve distress, and in performing the work of true philanthropy. To a considerable extent they are men of means, and, therefore privileged to make what at the first would seem to be a lavish and unjustifiable expenditure.

As regards the specific point named we think it should be borne in mind that some members of the Order will make a visit to San Francisco the coming summer in place of an excursion, which otherwise they might properly take with their families to the seaside or the mountains. The trip to the Pacific Coast will cost them no more than a summer vacation spent elsewhere. We have knowledge of Commanderies and individuals that have been carefully laying by funds for the past two years preparing for such a trip, and they think they have the right to enjoy an excursion which they have thus prepared for. They have denied themselves in various ways, perhaps, or have so husbanded their resources that they believe they are justified in making the outlay for