

ment and best informed authorities, stating "that it was not the intention to adopt the peculiar religious opinions, or follow the usages of the old religious, military fraternities, but to create and adopt a Masonic military degree of their own to be known as "Knights Templars."

In its present form, U. S. Templary can have no pretension to be considered as representing the old order, hence the mistake of associating the degrees of the two countries as meaning one and the same.

XVIII.—The advances made by the English Templars a few years ago towards an alliance proved unsatisfactory, as the views adopted by our United States fratres did not in essentials assimilate with those of the Empire;—the originators of their system chose to found it altogether on Craft Freemasonry, and they are now so connected they cannot be separated to amalgamate with a system not equally so;—the formula of a reception into the degrees based on the ancient Templar ceremonies and Trinitarian Christian belief are totally different in structure, usages and creed from that of Templary based upon Craft Freemasonry.

The purely Masonic Templar system can be compared to little else than what might be called "a frantic effort after the real thing, with a sort of photograph of it to start upon"—but which in many instances has degenerated into a burlesque of the original idea, however well "got up" and enjoyable as a public dramatic military spectacle, but is not Templary.

XIX. It is well to bear in mind that the Masonic high degrees were the production of Masonic enthusiasts, ambitious and desirous to claim a parentage for Freemasonry from the extinct religious military fraternities, and who concocted the "Myth" that the old Templar order still existed, preserved in the Masonic fraternity—but it is a mere delusion to suppose that speculative Masonry refers to, or represents the original sectarian and trinitarian Christian order of the Temple or that of St. John of Jerusalem. The circumstance of formerly conferring the modern degrees "under Craft Warrants," only meant having the charter in the room during the Templar ceremonies, so as to give them sufficient authority as an adopted Masonic body.

To speak of Templary as an order of Freemasonry is simply ridiculous. The order of the Temple existed for centuries apart from Freemasonry, without any known connection, farther than that the old Knights Templar employed the ancient craft as workmen, and