

would adopt the black chapeau. But then we do not parade as much as you do, and do not have so many "Masonic occasions," and do not always meet or parade in the "dog days." So it has not worried us very much, as yet, but that velvet harness in a warm, close lodge room, we are certainly not in love with, and from all we can read and hear it is gradually losing its place in the affections of American Templars. The signs are certainly pointing that way in many jurisdictions, and we note many speak and write as we feel about it.

Sir Knight Foster is strongly opposed to compulsory membership in all branches of the fraternity, and objects to the Templar Order being made a collecting agency. Under New York he says:

Right you are, Grand Commmander Mapes! The Commandery should never be forced into the degrading and ungracious attitude of a collecting agent to enforce payment of debts to *anybody* but itself. Oh, no; let Lodge and Chapter and Commandery each manage its own financial troubles, and punish its own delinquents within its own closed doors.

We should like to quote more of our good frater's interesting report, but space is limited.

Membership, 1,075: 16 Commanderies; net increase, 16.
 Samuel B. Dow, Knoxville, Grand Commander.
 Wilbur F. Foster, Nashville, Grand Recorder.

TEXAS—1898.

45th Annual.

Dallas.

April 13th.

The Grand Commandery was escorted to the First Methodist Church at ten o'clock a. m., by the Knights Templar of Texas.

The Rev. Sir Kt. J. F. Smith on behalf of Dallas Commandery gave an address of welcome, responded to by the Grand Commander. Sir Kt. J. R. Carter, acting Grand Prelate, then delivered the annual address after which the Grand Commandery was escorted to the Templar Asylum.

The Grand Commander, R. E. Sir Kt. L. T. Noyes, then opened the Grand Body in full form. The roll call being responded to by twenty-two Commanderies.