

shipful, the Grand Master of Canada, has the smallest desire to do so, still the Most Worshipful, the Grand Master of Quebec must record the opinions of himself and his Grand Lodge upon the subject, and have the position of his jurisdiction distinctly defined.

RED CROSS OF BABYLON.

We do not think much of this degree and never did. At all events it should never have been introduced into the Templar Order. Our Fratres across the line have, however, done so, and under the circumstances it is necessary that our Sir Knights should be acquainted with the same. This can be done by *communication* with Eminent Commanders, under the authority of the Grand Prior of Canada, or better still in our Councils of Royal and Select Masters, where the degree is properly worked, and to which it properly belongs. We should not have alluded to this grade, which was literally stolen from the Ancient and Accepted Rite, only we find that the Grand Commander of Illinois has ruled that all Templars, from foreign jurisdictions, who have not received this *knife-and-fork* degree, must put in a petition, be balloted for, &c., &c., before receiving the same, and that he "cannot visit a Commandery" there, and furthermore, "of course, the regular fees for Red Cross, and for membership, should be collected." This would be a courteous and knightly greeting with a vengeance!

Now, we maintain this—Any frater from a foreign jurisdiction that does not have this grade, upon proving himself a Knight of the Temple and Malta, out of courtesy to his mother jurisdiction, should at once have the secrets of the wanting degree communicated to him *free of all expense*. Does it cost the Commanderies of Illinois anything to do so. No. If they visit Scotland and have not all the degrees required by that jurisdiction, would they like to be excluded? Certainly not. We think then that every Mason and Templar

should strive to assist a visiting brother and not to debar him because he does not happen to be versed on the *local* peculiarities of any particular jurisdiction. Such narrow mindedness is not masonry, but sectarian bigotry.

However, it points out to us as Canadian Fratres the importance of receiving these so-called degrees. This degree in particular should always be communicated in our Encampments, or, better still, where it is possible, candidates should be told to take it in our Councils. This lesson, though we think it a most bitter and unnecessary edict, also shows the importance of masons taking such grades as are given in foreign countries. We have always held this as very essential, and have often been astonished at the indifferent manner in which brethren view degrees and grades of a foreign jurisdiction. Surely there can be no harm in receiving them, whilst they make it so much more pleasant when visiting other countries.

We advise, then, since this degree is one in the regular ranks of the American System, that all Royal Arch Masons, where there is an Encampment, should establish a Council of Royal and Select Masters, in which body, in this country, the degree is worked *extenso*; besides in one Jurisdiction in the U. S., the Cryptic Degrees are a prerequisite to the Templar, so it is decidedly advisable to have them all. Capitular Masonry is now extending far and wide throughout the Dominion, why should not that beautiful little branch known as Cryptic be recommended with equal favor?

FREEMASONRY AND CHRISTIANITY.

Too much has been said and written regarding Freemasonry and Christianity. Why should certain brethren argue so much regarding this point. Freemasonry is not a System of Religion. Far from it. Freemasonry simply inculcates certain truths—that's what the Great Creator himself communicated to Adam in the garden of Eden. Truths that