

its branches with those of the protecting stem. Strictly speaking, there is nothing whatever Masonic about the Order save only that its membership is only open to R. A. Companions. The Arch and the Mark are merely developments, of the esoteric and exoteric teachings of the three craft degrees, but the the neophyte in Templary, so soon as he has proved himself a R. A. Companion, leaves every prestige of Masonry behind.

BURYING THE DEAD.

The Blue Lodge finds its precedent for burying its dead in the tradition on which the Master Mason's degree is founded, even a "grand procession" is authorized, and the duty to perform this office is in perfect keeping with its traditions and customs, to say nothing about the theory advanced by some that such burying is the final act in the drama of the third and highest degree known to Ancient Craft Masonry.

The services of the tabernacle and the sanctuary with accompanying vestments; the breastplate worn by the high Priest; the ark of the covenant, the incense, pot of manna, book of the law, and Aaron's rod, these with certain traditions form the basis for the Royal Arch Chapter. To perpetuate a knowledge of these, and impress moral lessons upon the mind are the objects sought in the solemn ceremony of our Order.

Nowhere in all of these is there found any precedent for burying the dead, any more than there is for reacting, in public, any ceremony pertaining to the Master Mason's degree. It is not our work as Royal Arch Masons. But it is said that the paraphernalia need not be displayed, and it is conceded that that would not be appropriate. But it has been done, and one reviewer boast of having seen it at the funeral of an illustrious companion, and this, to him, was all sufficient. No, the temptation to display is too great, and if allowed at all, it will lead, in some instances, to a vulgar show.

The fact that Knights Templar have a beautiful burial service, which, under exceptional circumstances, it would be very appropriate to use, does not figure in this discussion. Yet, where the deceased is a member of the Blue Lodge, that organization, if practicable, should perform the last sad rites of burial. A commandery of Knights Templar, by the very character of its organization, its dress, its drill, and the organization, it presents, of all other bodies is best calculated for escort duty, and that is its proper duty in the burial of a deceased Freemason. -- *Illinois Freemason.*

The distinguishing characteristics of Knights Templar are charity and hospitality; those, therefore, who assume the responsibilities of this Grand Order are bound by solemn vows to give alms to the poor and weary and succor the needy, feed the hungry, clothe the poor and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. The foundation of the Order is so broad, so ample, that every man in sympathy with all noble efforts for the uplifting of the race may enlist under its banner. It is a power for good in the world to day. Among its membership will be found representatives from the very highest class of American citizenship. Its sublime ritual, its purely Christian teachings and severe code of morals are all helps and aids towards making each Sir Knight a good man and a good citizen.

Wherever there is a man loving his neighbors as himself, there is a just and upright Freemason. Let us away with the thought that man can build the Masonic character by any rule, save the golden rule. Away with the narrow thought that Freemasonry is an organization of men bound together by signs, secrets, grips and passwords only! The Masonic badge is the white rose of a blameless life; the true Masonic grip is the heart touch and hand-touch of brother men of one common Father. Freemasonry is a personal force behind which and in