

wish or desire that Templary in the United States should eliminate from its O. B. and ritual all reference to what is held as a sacred landmark of the Order by all other Templar bodies on the face of the globe? In other words, does the Grand Encampment of the United States permit its subordinates to accept the petition of one who does not acknowledge a belief in the doctrine of the Holy and Indivisible Trinity in Unity?

Judging from Sir Knight Drummond's letter in the *Keystone*, of the 27th ult., I opine it does, for that eminent Frater states:—"At one session of the Grand Encampment it was proposed in a committee, of which I was a member, to limit eligibility to those who believed in Trinitarianism, and I objected. My objection was—the formula has always been in this country, 'an institution founded on the Christian religion, and the practice of Christian virtues.' If the Christian religion means Trinitarianism, the proposed addition is unnecessary; if it does not mean that, the proposed addition is a violation of the fundamental principles of the Order. The proposition failed. I have never heard in a Commandery any special mention of the Trinity, and I cannot understand what change Bro. Ramsay means has been made, or wherein I was in error in what I stated in my objection." Our learned brother further remarks that "Bro. Ramsay seems, in his use of the phrase 'Christian and Trinitarian,' to imply involuntarily that the former does not necessarily include the latter."

In reply to Bro. Drummond in the *Keystone*, as to *where* and by *whom* the

alteration in the O. B. was made, so as to admit those who did not profess a belief in the Trinity, I stated "it was only necessary to refer to the time when the present K. T. system was founded in the United States." In England, during the last century, when the old Templar Order became attached to the Masonic Body, special mention was always particularly made of the doctrine of the Holy and Indivisible Trinity in Unity as the chief corner stone on which the Order was founded, and in every *Ritual in Great Britain and Ireland* up to the present date the O. B. commences in the name of the Holy Trinity, which is also the case in all European Orders of Christian Knighthood; and in the Templar Bodies of England, Ireland and Scotland, the postulant is dubbed by the sacred name. Now, the Great Prior of Canada, Col. W. J. B. MacLeod Moore, has on several occasions pointed out that there is evidence to show that the K. T. Order was first introduced into America so far back as A. D. 1769, by British regiments quartered at Boston, which had Masonic Lodges attached to them, and the same authority asserts that Encampments of Knights Templar existed in the United States up to the end of the century, which followed the simple formula derived from the mother country. Subsequently, however, in 1811, a new system was organized in the United States by a body of the A. & A. S. Rite, and Masonic Orders of Knighthood introduced, named after some of the older Orders. They made the Knight of the Red Cross, which is synonymous with Knight of the East and Prince of Jerusalem the.