

their membership therefrom, in the presence of the Illustrious Deputy for Ohio, and in impressive form, proceeded to unite themselves with Scottish Rite Bodies, holding under another Supreme Council. For doing so they were expelled from the bodies from which they supposed they had withdrawn; and this act was soon followed by their expulsion from the Commandery of which they were members—Mount Vernon Commandery, No. 1, Knights Templar, of Columbus.

This expulsion, as we have said, was enforced under the Amendment, Art. 1, Sec. xiii., of the Grand Commandery of Ohio.

With regard to this Amendment, we repeat what we have before said, that it was adopted by the Grand Commandery, and upon the motion of Scottish Rite Masons of high degree, in the interest and behalf, not of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, but of the A. A. S. Rite. They introduced it, secured its passage—by what law, or reason, or sense, it is impossible to conceive—and they intend to enforce it. The question naturally arises, and the inquiry comes up from all parts of the Jurisdiction of Ohio, concerning the right of the Scottish Rite to place such legislation upon the statutes of the Grand Commandery. That they placed the law there is denied. But, with all deference, they did place it there; and the proof that they did, is found in the written and printed statement that this "law of the Grand Commandery has saved us," etc., with the further printed statements, that "we (the Scottish Rite) intend to enforce this law to the extremity!"

It may, therefore, be summed up in a brief statement:—The obnoxious and mischief-making Amendment of the Grand Commandery of Ohio, was of Scottish Rite origin, is kept on the statute books by the high grade Scottish Rite Masons, and is enforced by them "to the extremity!"

Now, for the first time since the enactment of that mischievous amendment, the Knights Templar of Ohio have an opportunity to witness the dire and woeful effect of this legislation in favor of a foreign body, and of its enforcement by that body, in the expulsion of as good and true Knights and gentlemen as can be found in the jurisdiction. And the question arises, what good has the law now done, in the first wholesale application of it, to the Commandery afflicted by its operation, or to the Fraternity of the Temple throughout the jurisdiction? NONE! *Injury*, and *injury only!* It is easy to foresee the downfall of the Order of the Temple in Ohio, through the menace which is livid in the face of the oppressor, and in this statement we are only voicing the "tears and complaints" of hundreds of Knights Templar in Ohio, as well as uttering the sentiments of hundreds of Scottish Rite Masons.

We give below some extracts from letters, which will show intelligent consideration and very deep feeling concerning the questions which are forced upon us, and as they appear to the minds of the writers.

Here is a communication, accompanied by a private letter to the editor, in which the writer says that he "has organized two Commanderies of Knights Templar, instructed them in the work of the Order, served the first three years, and the second five years, as Eminent Commander." He adds, at the close of the letter:—"I do not wish to see our Order of the Temple die."

"*Editor Masonic Review*:—Is it possible that the Templars of Ohio understand what has been done under the authority of the Grand Commandery of Ohio? Do they know that the oldest Commandery of Knights Templar in the West has been destroyed,—that fourteen good Knights and true have been sent from their Templar home by force, with the stain of expulsion upon them?"