

and rule the Preceptory as he thinks fit, which must ultimately destroy its prestige and the confidence of the members. Under such circumstances, how is it possible for any Preceptory to prosper, or is it to be wondered at, that members become dissatisfied and seek from a different "system" the information denied them in their own, endeavoring to obtain some compensation for time and money thrown away, thus bringing discredit on the teachings of the United Orders in Canada.

I must again earnestly call upon all Provincial Priors of Districts to exert themselves, and by frequent inspections of their Preceptorics, insist upon the rituals and regulations being strictly adhered to and properly expounded, and no innovations whatever permitted. It is lamentable to think that Fratres should take upon themselves the responsible duties and obligations of a Preceptor, and care so little about them afterwards, as not even to take the trouble of perfecting themselves in the true meaning and sublimity of the Templar and Malta degrees, ceremonies so simple and carefully prepared, that "all who run may read." The merest tyro of a school boy can learn by rote what is set before him. Here it is the sacred duty of the Presiding Preceptor to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the rituals entrusted to his safe keeping, and which he is bound to hold possession of as their custodian by Great Priory, on the principle that "the best thing in the world, so long as it is maintained among a small number of witnesses, loses much of its value as soon as it is divulged and becomes too common."

The mere conferring of degrees will have little effect, unless all preconceived ideas are given up associated with Free and Accepted Masonry, and the mind allowed to dwell on the sacred truths which the rituals convey.

I have learned that several of the Preceptorics do not confer the "Malta" degree. This is an evasion of the Statutes, and an injustice to the Fratres who are entitled to receive all the degrees *in extenso*, and who, therefore, do not get full value for the fees paid by them. The unfairness, to use no harsher term, of such a proceeding, I am sure, only requires to be pointed out to be remedied.

So little care appears to be generally observed in previously informing candidates (by their proposers), as to the object and meaning of the United Orders, that I was lately astonished to find a candidate who had been proposed and accepted, know so little about them, or what was required of him, that he fancied Templary was merely a continuation of the Jewish history of the Royal Arch.

#### WARRANTS.

During the past year, by the indefatigable

exertions of the Grand Chancellor, all the Preceptorics have been furnished with new warrants from the Sovereign Great Priory, beautifully executed, a work of labor entailing much outlay. Preceptorics having expressed a desire to retain their old English warrants as an heirloom, I have to recommend that Great Priory grant the permission, on their presentation to the Grand Chancellor to be endorsed as cancelled.

I am happy to say that he has also been instrumental in reviving the once flourishing "St. John the Almoner" Preceptory, at Whitby, Ont., allowed of late to fall into abeyance, but which has been again restored with renewed energy.

I had hoped to have been able to inform you that the dormant "Harington" warrant, No 14, at Trenton, Ont., had been revived in the capital of the Dominion (Ottawa), where its very name, I am confident, would have insured it success, but members of the Order residing there consider it advisable to delay opening a Preceptory for the present, on sufficiently good grounds. I therefore, at the request of several Fratres, decided to transfer it to Almonte, County of Lanark, Ont., where it has been now re-organized under favorable circumstances, and the Presiding Preceptor, † Fra John Elliott, of that place, I had myself the pleasure of installing. Thus the last of our dormant Preceptorics has been again put into working order.

The American Red Cross Degree (similar to the Scottish "Babylonish Pass") is still worked on sufferance in some Preceptorics, under the authority received by me from the Grand Master of the United States Templars, several years ago, although not recognized as a degree of our Templar system, and merely communicated to admit of Canadian Templars visiting the United States Commanderies without difficulty. Certificates can be had of the Grand Chancellor for such members as may require them, who have taken the degree.

#### EXCHANGE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Exchange of Representatives have taken place between this Great Priory and the Grand Encampment of the United States. Our representative near the Grand Encampment is R. E. Frater Theo. S. Parvin, of Iowa, a brother well-known as an able writer and scholar, fully conversant with and assenting to the doctrinal teaching of our system, to whom the rank of Honorary Dep. Grand Master of Great Priory has been accorded.

Our oldest Canadian member of the Order, Frater Jas. A. Henderson, of Kingston, Ont., G. C. T., the Deputy Grand Master of Great Priory (a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada), has been selected by the Grand Master of the Templar Order in the United States