

of the Ritual is not obligatory, and a declination to use it is not disloyalty; the action of the Grand Commandery of Iowa can be questioned by the Grand Encampment only, and not by the Grand Master; Templar Masonry is governed by constitutional law, and not by a despot. These are the chief points in the ten protesting clauses of Grand Commander Yarnum's defence, and they are skilfully handled. It is difficult to say how Grand Master Roome will meet this defence and protest, but unless he has the law on his side it is possible other grand Commanderies will follow the lead taken by Grand Commander Speed.

MORE "DISLOYALTY."

Sir Knight Frederic Speed, Grand Commander of Mississippi, comes out strongly in defence of the Grand Commandery of Iowa, which it will be recollected was suspended by General Charles Roome, Grand Master of Knights Templars of the United States, for refusing to accept a new and objectionable ritual. Sir Knight Speed not only defended Iowa but refuses to enforce the edict issued by the Grand Master, and speaks in the most emphatic manner as the following sentence shows:—"Being clearly of the opinion that the Most Eminent Grand Master has exceeded his constitutional authority in the premises, and that it would be a dangerous precedent to admit, by the promulgation of said edict, that it has any validity or is of binding force anywhere amongst Knights Templar, I have declined to promulgate the same in this jurisdiction."

Sir Knight Speed gives numerous reasons why the edict should not be obeyed, and states his case with great clearness and power. In closing his protest, Sir Knight Speed, says:—"If I have been so unfortunate as to have failed to impress upon your mind a conviction of the illegality of your order and edict, I beg of you to consider whether in proceeding to such an extreme measure of coercion the evil is not likely to far exceed any possible good which could come from such a measure. The Grand Commandery of Iowa is one of the most intelligent bodies of gentlemen which assemble anywhere upon the face of God's footstool. It is scarcely possible that they can be captious in this matter; indeed, the very language employed by them in discussing the question is any-

thing but rebellious and treasonable, as your edict charges. They say 'the Grand Commandery of the State of Iowa does not question the power of the Grand Encampment to prescribe the entire Ritual of this Order,' and then, as the result of their conclusions, they submit the question to the Grand Encampment at the 'next Triennial Conclave.' Surely, if this is 'disloyalty' and 'rebellion,' we are all traitors who presume to doubt the legality of any statute, and without being guilty of treason there could be nothing but blind submission to all the vagaries of legislative bodies."

MINNESOTA.

This Grand Commandery held its annual conclave June 25th and 26th, in Duluth. The attendance was large, every Commandery in the State being represented excepting one. Sir Knight John A. Schlener, Minneapolis, was elected Grand Commander, and Sir Knight A. T. C. Pierson, St. Paul, Grand Recorder. The next meeting will be held in Austin. A committee consisting of the first four officers of the Grand Commandery, was appointed to memorialize the next Grand Encampment in favor of the repeal of the present ritual, which is an indirect blow at Grand Master Roome's suspension of Iowa, and direct sympathy with the Grand Commandery of that State.

JACQUES DE MOLAI.

Sir Knight Edmund Flagg, of Virginia, and an author of some repute, has just completed a powerful, picturesque and absorbing novel of the fourteenth century, historical in character, and full of information conveyed in the most pleasing manner. The title of the book is, "De Molai, the Last of the Military Grand Masters of the Order of Templar Knights." The scene is laid principally in Paris, and the theme is the suppression of the Order of Knights Templar by Philip the Fourth of France. Throughout the romance towers the commanding form of Jacques de Molai, the noble old warrior-monk, who was ready to bear the tortures of the Inquisition, and even to suffer martyrdom at the stake, for the cause of the persecuted Order of which he was the chief. A complete history of the Knights Templar is given, which will be found of great value and interest