

we should adhere as closely as possible to the forms and ceremonies of our mother Constitution.

The religious aspect of our Order is one that requires more serious consideration. That grand Cosmopolitan society—Freemasonry—assures every candidate on his entering it that no vow will be required of him contrary to his religious belief, but, at the very portal of our Holy Order, he is asked to declare his belief in the Holy Trinity.

A man therefore goes beyond Freemasonry when he enters an Order into which any one of his Masonic Brethren is debarred from being admitted on account of his religious belief. Let us then, once and forever, put from our minds the idea that we form an *essential* part of Freemasonry. Attached to the grand Order of Freemasonry we certainly are, and it is in our province to become an ornament or a blemish to the noble institution. It either must naturally follow, therefore, that, our Order being essentially religious, we must not expect that it will extend with the same rapidity as the purely Masonic Orders. But there is one consolation that in this our Temple we are in a position to keep excellent guard over the admission of candidates, and we can feel fairly assured that, if a man can pass with honor through the Masonic degrees, with all their tests and trials—is thought worthy of being elected for installation as a Knight Templar—and can, moreover, conscientiously declare his belief coincident with our requirements, he will be able to sustain and perpetuate an Order composed of men to whom the moral teachings of Freemasonry have been of the greatest benefit, and in so doing will become truly an ornament to Freemasonry, and will be enabled, with the greatest possible effect, to promulgate the teachings of the Great Captain of our Salvation.

The Preceptories have shown more life and activity than ever before, and the Grand Treasurer's statement is ten times better than that of the previous year.

In the report of the Grand Council we find the following:

As to recognition, nothing further has transpired since last Assembly, yet Grand Council hope to obtain recognition by Grand Encampment of U. S. A. at their Triennial Meeting to be held next August at Boston.

Your Grand Council heartily congratulate the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada on being once more on harmonious terms with the National Great Priory of England, which latter, owing to Canada having issued Warrants to Subordinate Preceptories now under our banner, withdrew recognition. Happily, this friction is now at an end, and it is to be hoped that the time is not far distant when the same relations will exist between Great Priory and England.

The term of office of Representatives to other Grand Bodies was fixed at three years.