

principles of Masonry, and that an assessment for such purpose is illegal, in that it requires of them a contribution for an object they cannot approve on moral grounds.'

"The resolution, however, states nothing about 'wines and liquors,' and should it be conceded that an assessment for such an end is illegal, it certainly cannot be presumed that either the Grand Commandery intended or that the Grand Commander will violate the law.

"The resolution does give as a reason, however, that the money is to be raised 'so that the honor and dignity of the Grand Commandery shall be maintained.' The object here stated is evidently commendable. How it shall be accomplished is a question to be decided by the Grand Commandery, and is also one which the Grand Master is incompetent to decide. It cannot be assumed that the Grand Commander, by whose order the money is to be disbursed, will abuse the discretion conferred on him. If the Grand Commandery had intended to prohibit the purchase of alcoholic beverages, it would doubtless have so provided. In the absence of such a prohibition, I am not prepared to say that they ought not to be furnished, since I know of no law of Templarism which forbids their reasonable use.

"*Second.* As to the second objection, I merely repeat your words, in which I entirely concur:—

"'That the assessment is per capita on the members. It is impossible to understand how the assessment could have been made pro rata except per capita. There is no possible way of determining the respective ability of the members, and a uniform tax is the only means of pro rating the burden among them.'

"*Third.* The third objection is apparently founded on Section 2 of the Supplement. 'An assessment for social entertainments cannot be enforced against one not participating.' This section, however, does not apply to the matter under consideration. The money is not raised for the mere purpose of social entertainment, but for that of meeting the proper expenses of the Grand Commandery at Washington. If it should be held otherwise, then no assessment could be levied to provide funds to pay the expenses of Grand Officers while attending such meetings, since almost the entire body of Templars in any jurisdiction is without this class.

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