

Priest, to open that Chapter, we believe that he did perfectly right to do so, and the action had at such meetings was perfectly proper and valid. The Grand Chapter did not approve of the decision.—*Her man C. Duncan, of Louisiana.*

NO SMOKING IN OPEN CHAPTER.

It is our belief that it is the first duty of a High Priest to preserve order and decency at all times in chapter assemblies, and that he should tolerate nothing therein that might offend the most sensitive companion. An open chapter is not a club smoking room, nor is burning tobacco the incense Royal Arch Masons are supposed to offer up therein "with a pure and contrite heart." The transaction of business and ritualistic ceremonies alike demand that the utmost decorum shall prevail. More than this comparisons not addicted to the use of the weed have rights that are to be respected, if harmony is to be maintained. If High Priests cannot recognize these things of their own volition, they ought to be called upon by Grand High Priest, or Grand Chapter, to step down and out, or the latter should brace them up with an expression that cannot be "misunderstood," or misconstrued. In trying not to offend the sensitive smoker, we are too much inclined to forget the equally sensitive non smoker.—*Marsh O. Perkins, of Vermont.*

INFLUENCE OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION.

From *Taggart's Times*, Philadelphia, we copy the following earnest letter. It is a call to action. Being assured of the justice of the cause every Knight Templar is familiar with his duty. It is Christ who is on trial. Of a moral necessity your judgment upon Christ will be Christ's judgment upon you. Shall the hundred thousand Templars of the United States longer remain silent in the face of these terrible assaults

upon and butcheries of the followers of Immanuel?

"A prominent Knight Templar in Birmingham, Eng., sends us the *Gazette* of that city, containing a heroic article on the Turkish atrocities in Armenia. In reference to this subject our correspondent writes as follows:

"Why is it that the Knights Templar of the world do not take some action—draw their swords in defence of the Christian religion as promised? I for one am ready to fulfill my obligation the moment I am called upon. I will sacrifice everything for the cause. I read your paper, *Taggart's Times*, through and through, but not a word in defense of these miserable Armenians whose only crime is that they are Christians. Now is the opportunity for the modern Templar to follow the footsteps of our ancient Crusaders. If I should write you throughout the whole day it would be impossible for me to adequately convey my indignation at these atrocities. I shall do all I can here in my humble way for the relief of these downtrodden people, and will join an army of Knights Templar and fight until every drop of blood would flow from my body. The European powers are afraid of each other, and the only way out of it is for either the United States to step in or the Knights Templars, who would be backed by the whole world. The Sir Knight who would take the first step in this movement would live in the memory of the world for ages. I hope to hear very soon that the Templars of "God's Country" are making a move to protect the innocent Christians in Turkey before it is too late."

Sincerely yours, J. P. A.
—*American Tyler.*

WHAT IS MASONRY?

The question has been asked by both members of the fraternity and those outside of it, and long dissertations have been written in which there have been attempts to answer it. There have been many views expressed and the man who is able to gather them all together