

true, as their hearts are permeated with the Christ spirit. And be it remembered that where the spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.—*Freemason's Repository*. A reply to the above from M. W. Bro. Moore will be found in the following article.

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**The Doctrine of the Holy Trinity in
its Connection with the Knights
Templar Order.**

BY COL. MACLEOD-MOORE, GRAND PRIOR OF
CANADA.

The action taken at the last meeting of the Grand Priory of Canada, requesting that all visiting Knights Templar from the United States, should certify their acceptance of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, before being received into any of our Canadian Preceptories, having given rise to some discussion, I have deemed it advisable to explain why it was considered necessary to apply such a test. The *Freemason's Repository*, of Providence, R. I., alludes to it in a most Masonic spirit, but is wrong in saying that the test was decided upon at the recommendation of the Great Prior, which is not the case, as will at once be seen on reference to the Proceedings of the last Great Priory, 11th October, 1878, at pages 228 and 249, where the differences existing between the Templar system of the United States and Canada are pointed out. So far from recommending the test to be applied to visiting Knights Templar in good standing, I consider the legislation on this point too hasty, requiring further consideration. For, if the Templar organization of the United States is entitled to recognition by the British Order, we have no right to demand from their members any O.B. or declaration that their own ruling power does not require of them. To do so is uncourteous, if not unjust—the fact that their Grand Body does not exclude “Unitarians” certainly affects the whole association, according to our views, and deprives it of its chief Templar character-

istic—but if we continue to acknowledge the Body to be regular Templars then we should recognize as lawful members of it any one whom it has seen fit to receive; in other words, we cannot recognize the association and yet claim the right to dictate to it whom it shall receive. What might have been done by Great Priory was to declare that the Order in the United States is not a Templar Order with which we can maintain communication, having discarded its most essential characteristic.

As a Body, purporting to represent the Ancient Order of Knights Templar, we have a right to apply the test to all who seek *affiliation* with us, because it must be evident that it is as necessary for a Templar to believe in the Trinity as it is for a Craft Mason to believe in God, and we have broken off with French Masons for denying God, still it looks like an assumption of intolerance to exact the test from *visiting* brethren of the United States, and it would be better to take for granted that all Templars are and must be Trinitarians, and that the test from them, in consequence, is not required. I do not myself see how the United States Templar Body cannot be Trinitarian, the whole ritual under which they are created unmistakably tends that way. If the representation of the crucifixion and ascension, and the anthem sung at their receptions, does not convey Trinitarian belief and doctrine nothing does. It is not my purport to enter into any controversy as to the necessity of a belief in this sacred mystery, or why such a requirement is called for on the part of members of the Templar Order further than to remark that the Order of the Temple is and has always been, from its organization, emphatically a Trinitarian Association, and should any explanation be allowed so as to permit Christian Masons who deny that dogma to be admitted, it ceases to be The Templar Order, although continuing the name, just