

thus two Grand Chapters working in the same territory. This step has been taken in self-defence, and that something is wrong in the formation of the Supreme Grand Chapter of N.S.W. is apparent from the following conduct of the old Irish Chapter, the Leinster Marine. Our exchange, the *Freemasons' Chronical*, says:—"The conduct of the one Irish Chapter, namely the Leinster Marine, has been most peculiar. After having worked side by side with the English representatives, after having accepted the "basis of union," after having united in the election of Grand Officers, a'ter having participated in the inauguration of Grand Chapter, voted for confirmation of minutes of election, and done obsequance to Grand Principals—they, upon the flimsy pretext that they were not satisfied with the Mark Degree, upon which subject there had been no legislation whatever, coolly repudiated their obligations, and 'ratted' over to the Scotch Chapters. This is 'Punic faith,' indeed!"—*Victorian Freemason*.

Knights Templars.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN :

Prescott, Ont., 26th April, 1890.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—

My attention has been drawn to an article in this month's CRAFTSMAN under the heading "Profusely Honored," which I feel it incumbent on me to reply to, and trust you will give it space in your next month's issue. Your informant on the subject matter (as the veil is too thin not to see that it has been furnished to you) appears to be actuated by the most rancorous feelings of jealousy, at the late circular issued by me, and who, in giving vent to his feelings of irritation, has descended to vulgarity, by his personal remarks.

Under ordinary circumstances I would hesitate to comment upon them, but rather to treat them with silent con-

tempt, were it not that I am desirous to exonerate the members of Cyrene Preceptory, from his unfraternal insinuations.

They knew nothing of my intention, until promulgated in the circulars, which entirely emanated from myself, nor had they by look, hint, or word ever expressed any opinion or desire upon the subject, or made any allusion to it. Neither was it actuated on my part by favoritism, but simply that I considered this Preceptory, which had nobly battled against formidable opposition at its birth and since, deserved all the support and consideration I could give a young and rising Templar body, persistently determined to carry out the precepts of the Order, and my instructions. I considered it my prerogative, as Grand Master, to choose any Preceptory I might wish to distinguish as particularly *my own*, without reference to the wishes or opinion of others, and that I was justified in censuring or praising any Preceptory in my jurisdiction as much as I deemed necessary.

The circular was issued by me from the best of motives, not only to point out my views on different subjects connected with the Order, a practice I have been in the habit of observing for years past, but also to express my appreciation of a Preceptory, which has always steadily endeavoured to maintain the high and exclusive standard which I believe Templary in Canada should possess.

A Provincial Prior of the District has recommended the Preceptories under his supervision to adopt the more popular system of Templary, in the neighbouring Republic, contrary to my oft expressed opinions, and also urged the introduction of the elaborate system of working of the "Red Cross" of Babylon, a degree which has been generally discontinued in Bodies of the Order, where it was formerly practised, as being quite out of place in Christian Templary. This Provincial Prior, who had not this year been elected to any office in Great Priory, was recommended to me by the Grand Chancellor for