

foregoing provisions so far as applicable. The duties of the Presiding Preceptor and Registrar of the Preceptory above prescribed shall apply to, and may be discharged by, the Chairman and Secretary of the committee.

25. The committee may sit whenever and as often as it may deem best for the interests of Templarism and the full investigation of the complaints before them; *Provided*, that every trial begun shall be prosecuted with as much despatch as the law governing the same and full justice to the accused and the accuser, will permit.

26. When the committee have concluded their labors, they shall report their proceedings and all the evidence to the Preceptory; and upon retirement of the accused and accuser, any member of the Preceptory present may express his views of the case; and any portion or the whole of the evidence shall be read, as he may require, to enable him to come to a decision.

27. A Frater against whom charges have been preferred, may deny or admit any portion or the whole of the charges and specifications.

28. In case an accused Frater shall plead guilty, such plea may be accepted as evidence, and shall render the taking of further proof unnecessary; but such plea shall not excuse the Preceptory from voting upon the question of guilt or innocence.

29. No visitor shall attend the Preceptory or committee for any purpose other than giving evidence during any of the proceedings of a trial of a Knight Templar, unless permission be granted by the Presiding Preceptor, or by the Preceptory, or by the committee, when the proceedings are before a committee, and such permission shall not be granted if the accused objects.

JUDGMENT.

30. Upon conclusion of the trial, the question of "guilty" or "not guilty," shall be immediately and distinctly put by the Presiding Preceptor, upon each charge in its order, which shall be voted upon separately; and every member present shall be required to vote by ballot; and it shall require a vote of a majority to sustain any charge.

31. If any charge shall be sustained, the accused shall be then and there declared guilty, and the Presiding Preceptor shall put the question as to whether the accused shall be suspended, suspended for a definite time, or reprimanded. Each of these questions shall be put separately, in the above order, if necessary, and shall be decided by a majority of the members present; and every member present shall be required to vote by ballot. The Preceptory may also, by a like vote, recommend to the Sovereign Great Priory that the offender be expelled.