

Empire, as also in America, at the end of the last and commencement of the present century, there were fraternities known as Encampments of Knights Templar, as well as Knights of "St. John of Jerusalem" or Malta, having a separate existence in no way connected with Freemasonry. These Encampments appear to have been "self-constituted," to perpetuate the ancient chivalric orders, without any more defined or authentic authority than what was derived from *unsupported* "traditions"—and in the British Dominions they found it necessary to place themselves under the protection of the "Masonic Body," to avoid the penalties enacted by the English Acts of Parliament, against all *secret societies*, excepting that of Freemasonry. This latter would seem to be the true reason of the Templar degrees being considered an *integral* part of *universal* Freemasonry.

British Templary continues to the present day closely allied to the Craft, although eminently Christian—none being admitted but members of the Masonic Body, and such only as profess themselves *Trinitarian* Christians.

#### NON-MILITARY CHARACTER OF THE DEGREES.

The degrees of Templary are *not* and *never* were intended to represent a military organization, but to perpetuate the Religious principles upon which the Ancient Order was founded—we do *not* now pretend to believe that the Degrees of the Temple and Malta are in *direct* descent or a perpetuation of the Ancient Chivalric Orders, but merely as an adaptation to Freemasonry, retaining the military name and phraseology to commemorate their origin and preserve their Christian teachings, exemplified in the ancient ceremonial, but in *no other* sense can they be looked upon as a military body. (5.) Such attempts quite destroy the sacred character of the degrees, and turn the fraternity into a dramatic

(5.) The wearing of swords does not necessarily give Templary a *Military* character, for in the last century, swords were worn by all classes of society, who had no pretensions to be considered Military men, and are still worn in official civil costumes; we also wear in our *Private* Chapters, the *White* habit of the Ancient "*Templars*" and *Black* of the "*Malta Order*," as a badge or symbol to denote the Order represented, and to promote a greater interest being taken in the Ceremonies, but in *no* sense claiming any right or pretension to the title or dignity of Secular Knighthood. All such attempts, and bombastic, public, dramatic military exhibitions indulged in, are