

To rectify innovations in the Templar body, a general convention was formed, founded upon the Chivalric Orders of the Crusades, which it was hoped would clear away all extraneous matter, and also establish a supreme authority to look up to, but ignorance of historical facts, and, unfortunately, an absence of unanimity of action, pronounced "Convent General" as chimerical and unnecessary.

Although the annual meetings have been discontinued, and it has been found undesirable to call any of late years, the active existence and authority of "Convent General" are but dormant or in abeyance, and may be revived at any time should expediency or necessity demand it; but, to say the least, this is a most unlikely event.

The Modern Templars, which Convent General was intended to represent, are the successors and disciples of those enthusiastic Christian Warriors, who during the Holy Wars vied with each other in the attempt to re-establish the Christian Temple in Palestine, and registered a vow to accomplish it; and this engagement they contracted by an oath, which obliged them to dedicate their property, their talents, life, and physical powers to assist in upholding the Faith and in the cause of Christianity.

From the latter part of the last to the present century, Templary in the British Dominions was a curious compound of the old Templar Order and that of St. John [Malta], the ritual covering both Orders at once and participating a great deal more of Malta than the Temple. These Orders, although not Masonic so-called, as Masonry is now understood, are eminently allied to it, retaining connection to the extent of selecting its members from that body. The requiring from a candidate a profession of Trinitarianism is a manifest but necessary departure from the toleration of modern universal "Free and Accepted Masonry," and proves conclusively that there was no original connection between them; in fact, official recognition with the present system was *not known* prior to 1780, although there is sufficient proof that detached bodies had existed previously, keeping up the alliance, and from these our present "United Orders" are derived, and have never lost their orthodox Christian character, or in any way adopted the Universal doctrine. This was also the case with our brethren of the United States, when the Chivalric Orders were first carried there from the Mother Country. Now the whole system there is changed to make it correspond with that of "Free and Accepted Masonry." The assertion by the able and learned Brother Sir Kt. † Josiah H. Drummond, of Portland, Maine, in a recent controversy, that no change had been made in the American system, I think a mistake; if he reads Dr. Folger's History of the A. and A. S. Rite carefully, he

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