

Templary an imitation of the Ancient Order, rather as being *appropriated* than inherited.

This, then, would seem to be the true reason *why* the Templar Order has been closely associated with Modern Free and Accepted Masonry, but our English system has been *always* kept separate and distinct from the Craft degrees, forming no part of them, and, conferred *after* the Royal Arch degree, considered the climax of Masonry, the completion of the second part of the Master's degree, separated from it and embodied in a ceremonial of Jewish legends,—the production of the last century.

The Templar system, with us, is, therefore, nothing more than a Christian association of Freemasons, who represent and follow the traditions of the Ancient Religious and Military Orders of the Crusaders, imitating, as nearly as possible, their usages and customs, and strictly adhering to their teachings and doctrines.

Until of late years, in all the discussions which have taken place as to the history and object of Templary, its purely orthodox Christian character was never disputed. Why, then, is there so much difficulty raised about the Holy Trinity test? No true orthodox Christian can bring forward any feasible plea for its rejection, which has always been insisted upon. Without this test, the Order is left open to the admission of members of questionable Christianity, who, from interested motives of their own, may wish to join and assume a name which they actually can have no right or title to, and whose latitudinarian views are but a travesty on the religion of Christ.

The profession by a candidate of a mere belief in the Christian religion is *not* sufficiently defined. The principles of Christianity existing centuries before the Christian era, but not until then were its pure doctrines revealed.

As a belief in God is the essential condition of the very existence of English Freemasonry, so is a belief in the Holy Trinity, Divinity and Incarnation of Christ the *first* essential requisite of our Templar system. On this fact it is based, and without it there can be no true Templary. Those who are unable to accept the doctrine, are totally unqualified for membership.

Let us, then, guard with jealous care any attempt at foreign innovations and strictly enforce the test.

Our American confreres have strongly commented upon this test, as excluding "Unitarians," who are admitted to the Order in their jurisdictions. There, the term "Unitarian" appears to include every shade of opinion from some speculative difficulty as to the