

The growing desire to enter the higher grades of Masonry has much to do with the evils we are considering. Brethren are ambitious; and having been once admitted to the secrets of Freemasonry, they are anxious to advance to the Chapter, and from the Chapter to the Preceptory, and so on. This is all very well, if their means will permit it; but if they cannot pay their annual dues to the Lodge, they are certainly not in a position to spare the sums to obtain higher degrees. For ourselves, we are not enthusiastic on the subject of degrees which range higher than the boiling point in Fahrenheit's thermometer. We are duly impressed with the symbolic teaching of Craft Masonry; and the majority of Masons, with few exceptions, have not time to devote to the many branches of the Order which have now become popular, and hence the reason why our Lodge meetings are so thinly attended; nor have they the money to spare to pay the entrance fees and annual dues required by these various grades, hence their inability to meet their engagements with their Lodge, and consequently the reason why there are so many suspensions for non-payment of dues.

Close Communion.

"It may not be generally known that throughout the Dominion of Canada assent to the doctrine of the Trinity is required of the candidate as prerequisite to being admitted to the Templar Order. At the last Annual Convocation of the Great Priory, held at Montreal, it was decided on the recommendation of the Great Prior, W. J. B. Macleod Moore, that all visiting Knights from the United States should be required to acknowledge their acceptance of the same dogma before being received into any of the Canadian Preceptories. A recent circular letter from the Great Prior communicates this action of the Governing Body and commands obedience

thereto. As a matter of interest to some of our readers we give the precise language and form of the official announcement as it appears in the January number of the *Canadian Craftsman*:

"The professions of the *doctrines* of the *H. and U. Trinity*, the distinctive characteristic of the Templar Order being required from ALL candidates admitted to the Order in the British Dominions, but does *not* form part of the Templar system of the United States, it was recommended by the Grand Council, and adopted by Great Priory, that ALL visiting Knights from the jurisdiction of the United States be required to declare to this doctrine before being admitted to any Preceptory. Every Preceptory *must* therefore insert in their Attendance Book a certificate to that effect, for the signature of such visitors."

"Under this new departure some of the most eminent of American Knights will have to abandon the idea of visiting the Templar Bodies across the border. They cannot be received and fellowshipped by the Canadian Knights unless they will certify to their belief in the doctrine of the Trinity. Denial of this dogma will shut them out, no matter how exalted their Christian faith or how obedient they may be in word and deed to the pure principles of the Gospel. We make no complaint that the Templar Order in Canada should set up this test of fellowship, giving it an especial application to the United States. As a matter of opinion, however, we do not think any such requisition of faith is called for. There are Unitarian as well as Trinitarian Christians. An exact conformity to dogmas is not the first object of importance, but rather the consecration of heart and life by the power of christian love. If any demand is to be made stronger let it be the requirement that more practical obedience shall be rendered to the precepts of the Divine Master by members of the Order who must needs become more loving, just and