

Templarism. Col. Moore objects, and not without cause, to the mutilation of his allocution, read before Great Priory at the previous session :—"I cannot help remarking, with all due respect for the opinions of others, that I consider it was a mistake to have interfered with my last year's allocution, by not publishing it intact, as read, with the Proceedings. The committee to whom it was referred had a perfect right to express their disapproval of any portion of it that they did not agree to, but I think they should have rendered the whole in full, to prevent any misconstruction being placed upon it, by those who had not heard it read, and to admit of the whole Body being acquainted with my views. I make these remarks in all good feeling, not from any fault-finding with the adverse opinions of others."

Referring to the connection of Modern Templary with Masonry, the Colonel says :—

"Various theories were advanced to prove that Templary was a component part of 'Free and Accepted Masonry' of the 1717 revival, but all have failed to convince before historic truth and modern criticism, however carefully perversion of truth may be arranged. In 1873 a most searching investigation, was instituted as to its alleged derivation and connection with 'Freemasonry,' as well as direct descent from the old orders of chivalry. It was then clearly ascertained and declared that Modern Templary was in no way a part of speculative Freemasonry. The argument brought forward that the Templar degrees formed a part of the original plan of speculative Freemasonry of the revival is a mistake based upon 'Anachronisms,' as they all refer to periods long after the invention of additional degrees or the Templar system. The error of adopting these degrees at all has been distinctly pointed out by our modern Masonic investigation of the most reliable authority."

Col. Moore referring to the suppression of the Military Order in the 14th cen-

tury says the doctrines and principles have been perpetuated :—

"If the old 'Templar Order' is dead, its teachings have survived; nothing is more certain than that the rules, constitution and even the general features of the ceremonies have been preserved, appropriated and practised, with such modifications as the changes in opinion and state of society demands, and is a revival of the same object, which it correctly represents; this view of the subject has the weight of evidence, legendary, as well as historical, over the visionary assumption of 'Masonic' Templary, but many in this sceptical age who have taken the Templar degrees, eagerly seize upon any new theory, physical or moral, to use it, if possible, against Christianity, under the cover of science or criticism, insisting that in the course of evolution the old Templar doctrines were merged into speculative Masonry of a universal creed, and will not admit the advisableness of perpetuating the exclusive Christian Trinitarian character, considering that Knights Templary and Freemasonry must eventually yield to evolutionary progress."

The following reference to the York Rite will be news to many of our readers :—

"The name 'York Rite' is peculiar to the American system of Freemasonry, and is not used in the Empire, where very few rites are known or acknowledged;—it is the fabrication of a prominent Mason, Thos. Smith Webb, who in the United States, at the end of the last century, attempted to prove that he had adopted the true work of the ancient 'York Masons,' but it is well ascertained no such work was in existence, being absorbed in the speculative teaching and system of the existing Lodges in Great Britain and Ireland. The York Grand Lodge died out in 1790, leaving no representatives, and never chartered Lodges out of England."

United States Templarism receives condemnation thus :—

"With respect to the Templar system of our fratres of the United States,