

didates to involuntarily take upon themselves obligations of degrees they have no wish or desire to become acquainted with, all that is necessary to preserve the connection with the universally acknowledged degrees of Ancient Freemasonry being the Royal Arch, the Master Mason not being considered complete without it, why then should we wish to debar worthy aspirants from joining the Order, who are unwilling to enter it through degrees they may consider unnecessary, and which at best are but offshoots from genuine Masonry, and have no practical purpose of utility to offer. By all means let those who wish to propagate the numerous existing rites do so, as their tastes and feelings dictate, and there is no reason why they should not, but as separate and distinct degrees. The Red Cross of the United States being the pass to their peculiar Templar system, their Grand Encampment authorized me some years ago to empower Preceptories in Canada to communicate under the Templar warrant, so much of it to the members of the order as would insure recognition on visiting the Commanderies of the United States. I consider this quite sufficient to continue our friendly intercourse; further information of the degree, if wished, must be obtained upon regular application to the Council of Rites of Canada, in which a Red Cross Council of Babylon has been embodied.

The degree of Templar Priest, formerly a part of the British Templar system, has been wisely, almost generally discontinued, as unnecessary, although separate tabernacles are still worked, and we continue to confer by authority of the Templar warrant, the degree of Malta, to commemorate the amalgamation that took place with the Order of St. John after the persecution of the Templars; but it is not necessarily a part of the Templar ceremonies and is now given quite separately as a distinct degree (*vide* appendices B and C.)

UNITED STATES GRAND ENCAMPMENT.

The action taken at the last triennial meeting of the Grand Encampment of the United States, in declining to accept our Great Priory as its peer on the representative question, I consider a mistake, although it is of very little importance to us, as it cannot alter our status or position as an independent body; but it is so far an unwise assumption of pretentious superiority that it is likely to prevent any alliance or closer intercourse between the two jurisdictions. It appears to me the mistake has arisen from not understanding the true meaning and purport of the union of the Great Priories. To make this clear, I should remind you that the original "Order of the Temple" was divided into Provinces, classed under two great divisions, the eastern and the western, containing numerous Preceptories or Temple houses, all having their own appointed Governors. England, one of the Provinces of the western division, included Scotland and Ireland, having each a Great Prior, the whole Templar Order being subordinate to one Grand Master, who always resided in the eastern division. Following this precedent, the object was to form the nucleus of a cosmopolitan chivalric fraternity, which it was hoped all English speaking Templars would gladly join, acknowledging His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales as the *only* Grand Master, whose acceptance of the office, and the union or alliance of the Great Priories, added dignity and importance to the order, and from whom honours could most appropriately emanate, as the higher and more distinguished the rank the person holds who diffuses any honours, the more likely it is that the value of such honours