

HONORARY DISTINCTIONS.

Since the visit of the Chancellor of the Great Priory of England, H. R. H. the Prince of Wales has been pleased, as a mark of his special favor, to authorize me to nominate a limited number of members of our nationality to receive the distinction of G. C. T. (Grand Cross of the Temple), and that of K. C. T. (Knight Commander of the Temple). Those selected by me will be named hereafter.

These honorary decorations were first introduced on H. R. H. accepting the office of Supreme Grand Master of the Order, and were originally intended to supercede the position of Past rank, which had assumed an importance and preponderance out of all proportion to the numerical strength of the Order. They are now in his exclusive gift, with whom it is a personal matter, and as they continue to be very limited in their distribution, are the more valuable and gratifying, carrying as they do a Patent under the sign manual of the Prince of Wales, which in itself is most interesting to the possessor.

OBJECT OF A "CONVENT GENERAL" AND CONNECTION OF TEMPLARY WITH FREEMASONRY.

Very great mistakes have been made and wrong conclusions arrived at by members who have not had time or opportunity, it may be, to investigate the matter as to the purpose for which a "Convent General" of the Order was formed.

This general convention of the different branches of Templary was intended to consolidate and place them on such a permanent footing and uniform basis in Great Britain and Ireland, that they might worthily represent the ancient chivalric orders, and how could this be so well carried out as by placing the united body under the government and patronage of our future King, the fountain of honor, thus giving to the Orders a status and reliability that could not otherwise be attained.

Templary as attached to "Free and Accepted Masonry," has been most incorrectly understood, its forms and ceremonies varying so considerably that not two bodies professing to disseminate its principles conducted the ceremonies alike in any jurisdiction, and the most ridiculous theories are promulgated relative to its supposed mystic origin, and connection with Masonry of the present day, called "Free and Accepted," as modified in 1721, when changes of ritual were adopted and new forms, ceremonies and legends introduced by Drs. Anderson and Desaguliers, expunging the doctrines of Christ, the basis of the old Masonic system and Templar Order.