

Arch Chapter as heretofore, considering that all Templars are Royal Arch Masons.

#### TEST OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

The resolution, acting on the report of the Grand Council, adopted at last meeting of Great Priory, requiring a test from the visiting Knights Templar of the United States, of their belief in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, having been erroneously stated in a Masonic periodical as recommended by me, I felt it necessary to contradict, in a letter to the CRAFTSMAN in June Number (see Appendix A. B.) and for the reasons therein given, I would recommend that the resolution be rescinded, but, as a matter of course, brethren who may wish to affiliate must comply with our rules and regulations in this and every other particular. The belief in the doctrine of the Trinity is common to all Knights Templar systems, excepting that of the United States, and is the acknowledged characteristic of every Christian Order of Knighthood, therefore, there is nothing singular in our requiring such a test of genuine Templary, when we find that those who reject the doctrine of the Trinity in Unity, have been admitted members of the Order. In its Templar organization the United States stand alone, materially differing on this point, as in many others, from all the existing branches of the Order. In this assertion there is no mistake. Their own writers declare that "they as Templars have naught to do with dogmas, and allow no denominational lines to be drawn round their Commanderies," thus at once surrendering the claim to be considered as representing the original Order of Knights Templar. There cannot be a shadow of doubt that the Templar Order was always rigidly Trinitarian, and in fact the persons who compiled the present American Ritual held that view in its completeness, but of late years the Unitarian system has spread so extensively in the United States, and more particularly among the educated classes, from which the Templars are principally recruited, thus the American Order had been in a measure obliged to qualify its original stand point so as to permit of Unitarians taking the O.B. However, that is their affair more than ours, and if they are

"out of keeping" they must suffer the reproach.

Do away with the chief characteristics of an Order, give it new titles and nomenclature, in fact, take from it all semblance to the original, as has been done in the modern Order of the Templars, which is so metamorphosed to make it a Masonic degree, that scarcely a vestige of the original chivalric character remains, and might with just as much propriety be called by the name of any other Christian society as that of the Templars.

Many of the legends of the numerous invented Masonic degrees of the last century are but "pious frauds," bearing no resemblance, except in name, to that from which it is said they are derived; at the same time there can be no possible objection to the adoption of any Masonic ceremonial agreed upon, which suits the views of the compilers, but why pass it off as *de facto*, a representation of the actual ceremonies of the original. This we know is the case in most of the Masonic Knightly Orders, which profess to be correct imitations of those they are named after, but are in almost every particular at variance with history and truth, being mere fanciful and fictitious representations for dramatic effect, rejected by all who have given the subject any consideration. We maintain that to represent *true* Templary, the old Monastic Military Order, which the Masonic Templars affirm they do, a belief in the Holy Trinity is indispensable, and an organization which does not require it, is no more Templary than one which does not require a belief in God is Masonic. If the Grand Orient of France is no longer a Masonic power, Templary which rejects a belief in the Holy Trinity is *not* and *never* was Templary.

#### OUT DOOR COSTUME AND MILITARY DRILL.

Remarks have been made, and correspondence taken place, on a subject which seems to be looked upon as important by some members of the Order, viz: the adoption of an out door costume, and the introduction of a system of military drill. This, I do not intend to enter into any discussion about, as my views are very fully expressed in a letter published in the July CRAFTS-