

the same order;" Unlike the American system in origin, in religious pre-requisites, in costume, nomenclature and identity." Such being the case, it is almost impossible to amalgamate the two systems, or even adopt a partial imitation, without destroying the distinctive organization of both. Our neighbouring Brethren indulge in more outward display and pageantry than ever was popular with us, and what with them is looked upon as a leading feature and matter of course in their institutions, would in the British Dominions, from the social system differing so widely, draw forth the ridicule of the public at large.

There can be no possible objection to any Society amusing themselves, if it suits their fancy, by adopting a military uniform and system of drill; therefore, if Preceptories who may wish in this manner to represent the military character of the old Templar Order, decide upon such a course, they are, of course, at liberty to do so.

Some enthusiastic Templars, who must fancy themselves at least "Jacques de Molais," say, that as "Soldiers of the Cross," our duty is as much in the battle-field as the sanctuary. The question is, what battle-field? The days when the Order and that of St. John of Jerusalem were called upon to fight against the Infidel hordes, has passed away forever.

Our Templary is not a military body in the literal acceptance of the term; it merely borrows the name from the Ancient Chivalric Order of the Crusades, whose principles and rules we should endeavor to imitate,* engaging in a spiritual warfare for the protection and propagation of the doctrines of the Christian religion, which it is not reasonable to suppose could be accomplished if we reverted to its original military character. As a purely Christian Society, attached to Freemasonry, military evolutions and public shows to represent the Ancient Order, seem to me quite out of place, of no benefit, and questionable both in policy and utility.

I am sure our Great Sub-Prior, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Canada, will agree with me that such practices, and large public gatherings of Masons, latterly so much in vogue, are not suitable, according to our ideas, for the Masonic Body of Canada in any

*A recent writer thus alludes to the ancient regulations of the Old Templar Order: "Whether within the walls of their Preceptories, or in their journeys, or engaged in war, the Rules for the observance of the Fraternity were excellent. The Templars were to be examples of wisdom, and to be fruitful in every good word and work. Truth, honor, godly fear, charity, sobriety, modesty and chastity—these were to be the guiding principles of their lives and actions."