

I desire to speak plainly. The institutions of our country are democratic—republican; the maxim is, the people must rule; this maxim, the wisest for political society, the best for government, necessarily commences with the dogma, "all men are equal," therefore the honest citizen is the equal of any, the peer of all. This is as it should be, to give happiness to the people; hence we pride ourselves most justly on our government and its blessings. But our duties to the State, as citizens, our love and obligations as citizens to our country, or pride in its laws and government, has nothing to do with our Order as Templars, or our duty as Knights, no more than our duty as members of an association of Christians, or of gentlemen has to do with the State or its government.

The Order of Knights Templars is one of exclusive Christian Masonic aristocracy. It demands wealth to conduct it, station to support it, discipline and obedience of all its members; it requires the educated, cultivated, intelligent Christian gentleman to appreciate it. It requires congeniality and a soldiery attachment and love for each other in the several members that form a Commandery. It requires pride of character in each Knight, and zeal in its officers and members; and it requires as much as either of these, that the several Knights should be as citizens and in private life the very best men and the highest in social life in the community where they dwell, and unless the Commandery is composed of Knights of this class, it were better closed, and ought never to be opened or allowed to be formed, unless the officers and members strictly and without any deviation therefrom are governed by these principles. What we want is quality, not quantity, Knights not men, swords not picks or bludgeons. Knights not members is what we must have, or you had better close the Temple.

Let your minds go back to that dreadful day near the Lake of Tiberias, on that Friday, July 4th, A. D. 1187, when Templars and Hospitallers in solid column passed through the Christian host to form the vanguard and cut their way through Saladin's army to that lake whose water was to the Christian worth more than gold. Says the historian, "The Templars rushed like lions upon the Moslem infidels, and nothing could withstand their heavy, impetuous charge." A Moslem writer says it was like "the last judgment. Then you might see the dense columns of armed warriors, now sweeping swiftly across the landscape like the rainy clouds across the face of heaven." An Arabian said they were "terrible in arms, having their whole bodies cased in triple mail," and the noise of their squadrons taking position like "the loud humming of bees." But all this valor, all this power, all this discipline, all this zeal, all their glory, fame and strength availed them not. Why? Because a plebeian crew guarded the cross; because there were tens of thousands of men, ay, of good, honest Christian citizens, tens and fifties of thousands of such men, who made up the army and guarded the cross, and only a few hundred Knights to fight for it. Hence the Knights were slain and the cross was taken. Go read and ponder on the events of that sad day; learn that Knights and not members are required to guard the cross. Disregard the lesson of that terrible day, admit any one because he is a "good citizen," a fellow you like, or one of your friends like, fill your Commandery so as to show a large number, and the result—a day will come when the discordant multitude will make you, if you are a true Knight, exclaim, as you see the cross of the Temple go down, like the holy Abbot Cogglesdale, on that day when Saladin took the cross and slew by the thousands the numerous Christian host, "Alas! alas! that I should have lived to see in my time these awful and terrible calamities!" I tell you, Sir Knights, herein lies our danger—too many admitted instead of too few.

I charge you, on your knightly vows, to prevent the throng from entering the Temple of our Order. You are knights, not multitudes. Access to our numbers ought and must be difficult; ay, most difficult. See ye to it, and by statutes and authority make it so. and level to the ground the Commandery that disobeys you in this vital matter; better its ruins to mark the spot where it once stood than its glittering halls filled with a multitude of men and only a score of Knights. We want not world shows or circus gatherings; we wish not long lines of men, but rather a chosen band of Knights, their ranks closed by bonds of love and mutual esteem, their forms marked by knightly presence and bearing, their swords as pure as their faith, their hearts as true to each other as the cross is the hope of them all. These are Templars; these are those who form a Commandery that will live and prosper; these, I charge you, alone allow to guard the Temple.—Sir Sam'l P. Hamilton, Grand Commander of Georgia.

## THE SCOTTISH RITE FOR CANADA.

THE second Annual Session of the Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33rd Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Dominion of Canada, was held in Montreal, on the 13th and 14th October. We quote from the *News*: Upon the roll being called, the following members answered to their names, viz: Ill. Bro. T. D. Harington, 33°, Ottawa, Sov. Gd. Com.; Ill. Bro. Robert Marshall,