

The introduction of the Templar degrees was strongly opposed by the Craft in England as a glaring innovation of cosmopolitan Speculative Masonry, and it was not until about 1780 that Templary obtained any official recognition in the Masonic system, for the purpose of representing its original basis founded on the Christian faith, and to preserve its Christian character—but the ceremonial of these degrees has no reference to Speculative Masonry, its history clearly showing there never could have been any connection between them, the one being always Trinitarian Christian, the other professing since the revival, the doctrines of "Theism" and a Universal Creed. Neither are these Templar degrees intended to represent the Military element of the ancient Order, only retaining the name Military to denote their origin. The causes which called forth the enthusiastic military spirit of the age when the order was founded, having long passed away, it is not necessary or advisable in its Masonic connection to perpetuate the military character. Although in the course of evolution it has gradually assumed, like many other degrees, a Masonic character—it is only Masonry in the sense that none but Masons are admitted. Careful historic investigation shows that after the suppression of the Order of the Temple numbers of the persecuted members sought refuge in the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and their peculiar doctrines and usages were transferred and perpetuated in the Scottish branch of the combined Orders of St. John and the Temple. At the Reformation they embraced the Protestant faith, repudiating the authority of the headquarters of the Order at Malta, and merged into the ranks of civil life. From this source our knowledge of the chivalric Orders is principally derived and become known, although publicly lost sight of amongst the revolutionary changes in religion and politics which from time to time have

disturbed the peace of the Christian world.

True Templary, as exemplified in the rituals used in the British Empire, is purely Trinitarian Christian, and in no way a part of Universal Masonry, but from the circumstance of these degrees being revised by the Masonic body, enthusiastic Masonic degree manufacturers supposed them to be of Masonic origin, fabricated them into "Masonic Military" degrees, without the slightest historical authority for doing so, and different countries took different views of the supposed connection.

Templary then in Great Britain, Ireland and Canada, following the principles of the Ancient Order, is eminently Trinitarian Christian, and must ever remain separate degrees from the Craft, for although Free Masonry does not teach anything inconsistent with the Christian faith, its Universal Creed debars it from a closer connection than that of alliance.

Our American Templar Brothers think otherwise, and base their Templar degrees on Modern Speculative Masonry, making them emphatically military degrees of Masonry, to suit their own theories on the subject."

W. J. B. MACLEOD MOORE.

WHY should there not, on St. John's day in every district, be a grand gathering of each lodge at some central point. The D. D. G. Masters should arrange to have such and it is certain they would be successful.

MONTREAL.—It is said that the resurrection of the bodies of the A. & A. S. Rite in Montreal, has been under consideration. It is not certain how much co-operation in this Rite there is likely to be amongst those between whom non-intercourse exists in Capitular and Craft Masonry!