

We also note the adoption of the resolution on cloak or Military overcoat, and have often thought it was one of the foolish customs of the Order to think that it was essential that the living Sir Knights should risk their lives and health, in order to pay tribute to the memory of the dead.

Owing to the pressure of Triennial affairs Sir Kt. Smith expresses relief upon completion of his report. His conclusion is interesting and in it he remarks:

Many correspondents, and some proceedings still adhere to using the prefix of title when applied to title or officer, viz: Sir Wm. Johnson, R. E. Grand Commander. Of course, it really matters but little how we use the terms, as the salaries go on just the same, but at the same time it is just as easy to have it right as wrong. We have always contended that this form of address is wrong, and the Grand Encampment decided it in that way a few years ago. In other words, that the prefix Most Eminent, Right Eminent or Eminent were titles of honor addressed to persons holding the office, and not a part of name or title of office. That the officer sign himself Commander, Grand Commander or Grand Master, but that in addressing them we should apply the prefix. Thus in making record:

R. E. Sir Wm. Johnson, Grand Commander, or if addressing on the floor, R. E. Grand Commander.

This is correct with the exception that the word "Knight" is omitted. The word Sir is an appellation or title of rank in other countries and should never be used without the word "Knight" in addressing or referring to a Templar frater. He is not a "Sir" but a "Sir Knight" of the Temple. We find this omission very frequently among our American fratres. It is a misleading misnomer.

Regarding the Spanish Cuban war he says:

There may have been difference of opinion as to the necessity and propriety of this war, but since it seems that it must be, there is but one feeling regarding it throughout all our great country.

And now that the dogs of war are loosed, where are those who cried loudest for war? At home in safety.

One of them said on the floor of Congress, that the result of this war would be worth all the blood that might be shed. Yea, verily, as long as it is some other fellow's blood.

Yes. Like Artemus Ward, they are quite ready to sacrifice all their wife's relations.

Sir Kt. Smith offers a prayer that a honorable and victorious peace will soon spread her wings over his beloved land; to which we add a fervent "Amen."