

Templar system of the Empire, after the most careful researches into historic authority that modern Templary forms no part of Speculative Masonry of the revival, referring to and representing the traditional connection that existed between the early ecclesiastical Christian builders and The Old Order of the Templars.

The system now practised in the British Empire follows the symbolism of the Divine or Sacred Mysteries, the prototype of the old Templar doctrines and the basis of those of the Christian builders.

I have no wish, nor do I intend to enter into any theological discussion about Masonry. The principles of the Craft forbid it—but our Templary is not Craft Masonry. Doubters and cavillers are ever ready to suppress true Templary and the Christian's faith,—and the admirers of the universal doctrines of Freemasonry who desire to conform Templary to its teachings, are equally mistaken as to the true meaning and object of the Templar degrees in the British Dominions. I am, dear Mr. Editor,

Fraternally yours,

‡ Wm. J. B. MACLEOD MOORE,
Grand Master, &c., Canada.
Prescott, Nov., 1887.

In remarking editorially that the Supreme Grand Master, K. T., had in his recent exhaustive Allocution, doubtless said the substance of what he deemed to be necessary concerning the "religious" aspects of the Chivalric Order, and suggesting that perchance he would, in his next, favor the Great Priory with equally important references to its "military" aspects, &c.,—it was not anticipated by us that our M. E. Frater would honor THE CRAFTSMAN and its large clientele, by unofficial correspondence thereon, and upon other moot points in Knight Templary and thus give the occasion for a brief interchange of

opinions, which may be of advantage to the Order of the Temple throughout the Dominion and elsewhere.

The reasons for the great extension of the Knightly Order in the United States as compared with its very limited progress during the same period, in Great Britain and Ireland, —in the Dominion of Canada,—and in the Colonies of the British Empire, while the spread of Cosmopolitan Freemasonry has been equally remarkable in all these countries,—necessarily engage the serious attention of all intelligent and zealous Sir Knights here and in Great Britain.

In discussing and otherwise duly considering all such matters, as to their causes, bearings, and results,—no one knows better than our esteemed and venerable correspondent, that, happily for the interests of truth, the mere "*ipse dixit*" of any one man, or any one set of men, is not so generally accepted as an "end of controversy," in these our days, as has so often been the case heretofore. Why, even the decrees of the "Council of Trent," or a "Bull" of an "infallible" Pope, are now alike properly subjected to the close scrutiny and searching criticism of a host of the keenest, best cultured, and most truth-seeking minds and hearts; and our prayer is that such may ever continue so to be.

In our opinion, the preceding letter of M. E. Frater Moore, does not throw much, if any, light upon the questions raised concerning "The United Religious and Military Orders of the Temple" in Great Britain, nor of the early embodiment of the "Military" aspects of the same, by learned Fraters, in the Templar system as pre-