

in the other Masonic Grand Bodies of the Dominion. Although our independent position permits us as a Body to make such changes in the regulations as may be deemed advisable for the good and prosperity of the Order, it does not follow that individual members, or even the greater majority, can assume the responsibility of erasing any of the "General Statutes," or changing the features and characteristics, or landmarks of the Order, as enacted by old prescription in the British Dominions. Such innovations would be a violation of the promises made and vows voluntarily taken, when you accepted the patent of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales to establish this National Great Priory, and my installation as Great Prior to represent him, and be but a mere mockery of all law and order, if Frates were at liberty to change the Constitution and do just as they like.

I read lately in some periodical that it was a curious fact in Physiology, the facility with which men took oaths they had not the remotest intention of keeping, recording some instances of obsolete customs requiring the sanctity of an oath, administered as a mere form. I really cannot help saying, we might add to the number many of the clauses in our Masonic O. B.† which are soon lost sight of, and considered of so little consequence that it is quite unnecessary to bestow a thought upon them afterwards, otherwise, how is it stringent rules assented to are so often unheeded? Frates of the Temple, it will be well for us all to remember the Monitor of the Order, in our beautiful Ritual, with the caution never to give cause to fear its warnings, as the periodical memento of broken vows.

UNIFORM, MILITARY DRILL AND PROCESSIONS.

When asked last year by a leading member of a Preceptory in Toronto, if I would sanction military drilling and parades by Preceptories, I could scarcely believe the question to be seriously intended, such practices being quite foreign to the meaning and intention of the Templar system under which we are organized. It was argued that as the custom prevailed with the United States Templars, the general wish of the Order in Ontario was in favor of it. I can only repeat (what has been so often already explained) in the words of leading Templars of the United States, "That they can scarcely be called

†In "Mackay's Masonic Lexicon," page 542, he says:—"The Masonic obligation is that moral one which, although it cannot be enforced by the Courts of Law, is binding on the party who makes it in conscience and according to moral justice." This is very explicit; it does not leave any loop-hole by which a Masonic obligation can be avoided or overlooked, upon the plea of expediency or temporary convenience. Having been taken voluntarily and with a full knowledge of the meaning, it must in conscience and justice be strictly observed.

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