

Preceptor to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the rituals entrusted to his safe keeping, and which he is bound to hold possession of as their custodian by Great Priory, on the principle that "the best thing in the world, so long as it is maintained among a small number of witnesses, loses much of its value as soon as it is divulged and becomes too common."

The mere conferring of degrees will have little effect, unless all preconceived ideas are given up associated with Free and Accepted Masonry, and the mind allowed to dwell on the sacred truths which the rituals convey.

I have learned that several of the Preceptories do not confer the "Malta" degree. This is an *evasion* of the Statutes, and an injustice to the Frateres who are entitled to receive all the degrees *in extenso*, and who, therefore, do not get full value for the fees paid by them. The unfairness, to use no harsher term, of such a proceeding, I am sure, only requires to be pointed out to be remedied.

So little care appears to be generally observed in previously informing candidates (by their proposers), as to the object and meaning of the United Orders, that I was lately astonished to find a candidate who had been proposed and accepted, know so little about them, or what was required of him, that he fancied Templary was merely a continuation of the Jewish history of the Royal Arch.

WARRANTS.

During the past year, by the indefatigable exertions of the Grand Chancellor, all the Preceptories have been furnished with new warrants from the Sovereign Great Priory, beautifully executed, a work of labor entailing much outlay. Preceptories having expressed a desire to retain their old English warrants as an heirloom, I have to recommend that Great Priory grant the permission, on their presentation to the Grand Chancellor to be endorsed as cancelled.

I am happy to say that he has also been instrumental in reviving the once flourishing "St. John the Almoner" Preceptory, at Whitby, Ont., allowed of late to fall into abeyance, but which has been again restored with renewed energy.

I had hoped to have been able to inform you that the dormant "Harington" warrant, No. 14, at Trenton, Ont., had been revived in the capital of the Dominion (Ottawa), where its very name, I am confident, would have insured it success, but members of the Order residing there consider it advisable to delay opening a Preceptory for the present, on sufficiently good grounds. I therefore, at the request of several Frateres, decided to transfer it to Almonte, County of Lanark, Ont., where it has been now re-organized under favorable cir-