

In some of our Commanderies there is a prevailing practice of omitting part or all of the opening ceremonies. Such infraction of the Ritual dampens the ardor of the officers, introduces a spirit of remissness among the Sir Knights, and paves the way for a general 'go as you please' Commandery. Attention to discipline will increase the efficiency of the officers, stimulate the Sir Knights to a greater interest in the work, and secure a larger attendance at your stated conclaves.

And, Sir Knights, let me admonish you, above all things, to abstain from intemperance and profanity. They surely bring reproach upon the Order and debase the character of its members. Profanity is the handmaid of intemperance, and is followed by other sins of a gross nature. Can there be anything more revolting than to witness a Sir Knight, wearing the holy cross upon his breast, debasing himself and violating every principle of the Order which he has been taught to observe, love, and cherish? Guard well the entrance to your asylums. * * *

While under the head of visitations, it may not be amiss to mention Monroe Commandery's time-honored custom on each New-Year's Day to visit in a body the Rochester Orphan Asylum. On last New-Year's Day they resolved to invite their 'three daughters'—Batavia Commandery No. 84; Cyrene Commandery, No. 89; and Zenobia Commandery, No. 41—home to the mother Commandery to spend New-Year's Day. With charity and good cheer they all began the new year aright. Never did Knights of old on kindlier mission set forth than did the Sir Knights of Monroe Commandery on this occasion. Monroe Commandery, with her honored 'daughters,' left the Temple, and the Sir Knights, some one hundred and fifty strong, marched to the Orphan Asylum. There everything was in readiness to receive them. Graceful evergreen decorations brightened the large schoolroom; as did a hundred bright and happy faces. These words greeted them: 'Happy New Year, Sir Knights.' There were a large number of visitors besides the Sir Knights, and there stood one hundred little boys and girls in respectful salutations to their guests. Songs and recitations by the children, and remarks by the Sir Knight appointed for that duty made a very pleasant hour for all. Besides a New Year's present given to every boy and girl, the Sir Knights presented the institution with \$275. Other scenes made bright pictures during the day and evening for the Sir Knights, but it is doubtful whether any of them could equal this in the genuine happiness of all concerned. I understand other Commanderies have adopted this custom on New-Year's Day, and to those who have not, would say, 'Go and do likewise.'

A new Commandery was formed at Salamanca.

The old standard of the Grand Commandery that had been in use for twenty-five years was presented to the Department of Antiquities in the Grand Lodge Masonic Library.

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