

AN APOLOGUE.

A certain king, in memory of a great deliverance, caused to be set up in a broad plain, a trophy, bearing a shield, of which one side was golden and the other silver. It chanced one day that there entered on the plain two knights, each clad in full armor attended by his squire, coming from opposite directions. As they approached the shield, having first saluted one another, they remarked on the beauty of its design and the perfection of its workmanship. "The splendor of this golden shield," began the one,—"Hold there!" cried the other. "Hast thou eyes in thy head, and canst thou not see that it is silver?" "One must be either a fool or blind," retorted the first, "not to see that it is of pure gold." From words, they soon fell into wrath, and from wrath came defiance to mortal combat. Having each taken his place as the law of arms required, they met with so true a shock that the lance of each was shivered to splinters on the other's shield, and their horses continued their course till each stood in the place which the other had occupied before. As they turned about to renew the combat, and called upon their respective squires for fresh weapons, they caught sight again of the shield which had been the cause of their quarrel. "Pardon my rash humor," said the first. "I see now clearly that the shield is of silver, as thou hast said." "And pardon me," replied the other; "for I see now that the side that thou didst look upon is golden. May God forgive us both, who, being brothers-in-arms, sworn to defend the innocent and redress all wrongs, have so violently fallen out by the way, and been near to shed one another's blood!" So these noble knights clasped hands in token of true brotherhood, and went their way. And, when last seen, having slain many foes in stern and valiant fight, they were journeying together lovingly, in quest of the Holy Grail.—Selected.

COLORED TEMPLARS.

We have received from Wm. T. Boyd, Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, the proceedings of the Colored Grand Commandery of Ohio for 1884 5-6, from which we are enabled to gather some interesting statistics.

The Grand Commandery is composed of seventeen subordinates of which eleven are located in Ohio, two in Kentucky, both at Louisville, three in Tennessee and one in Indiana. It has been organized fifteen years, and its membership in 1883 was 476; in 1884, 480; in 1885, 382; and in 1886, 387. It will be seen that the average membership is but twenty-three, and this is scattered over four great states.

There are also Grand Commanderies in California, District of Columbia, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and Virginia.

Ohio seems to be the leading Grand Commandery, so that we may estimate that in the whole twelve Grand Commanderies there are not over 2,500 members.

The fact that Ohio has two subordinates in Kentucky while it continues in friendly relations with the Grand Commandery of Kentucky, shows the inchoate condition of the Colored Order.

Another indication is that the Grand Commander, Alexander Morris, has presided for seven years. Not but that he is an able officer, but the fact shows a lack of competition. He resides in Louisville, Ky.

We are somewhat surprised to find the membership so small and decreasing, but as the largest membership is thirty-three, it is obviously expensive and therefore not attractive to a race which as yet has but few men of wealth. On the whole, we opine that the Black Knight will for some time remain *L Faineant*.—*Masonic Token*.