

so many of the best worked lodges, chapters, preceptories and councils in the United States, and in some throughout Canada,—and be ye “provoked” thereby to like “good work.”

Brethren, let these needful and timely suggestions not be as “good seed sown upon stony ground.”

A genuine revival of perfectness in Masonic “work” is imperatively demanded. Let all sluggards awake from their death-like slumbers and go to work diligently in the Lord’s vineyard.

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### Correspondence.

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We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.

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### “MILITARY” TEMPLAR.

*Editor of THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN.*

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—From your editorial remarks on my letter in the September number of *THE CRAFTSMAN*, I am afraid I did not make myself clearly understood. I still assert and maintain that the Templar degrees introduced as a Masonic revival of the principles of the Ancient, Religious and Military Orders, were never intended to represent the Military element, but merely retained the name, to denote their origin. The causes which called forth the enthusiastic Military spirit of the age when the Order of the Temple was founded having long passed away, it is not necessary to perpetuate its Military character. We are all soldiers serving under the great Captain of our Salvation, contending against infidelity; wrestling not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual enemies. Wherefore we must take the whole armour of God, and above all the shield of Faith, and if we would fight the good fight we must equip ourselves as bidden by the Apostle. We can as successors representing the

famous Monastic Military fraternities still discharge the duties of Soldiers of the Cross and Christian Knights, by standing forth the champions of our Holy Faith; and be ever ready to protect and assist the oppressed and the destitute, the widow and the orphan, preserving unsullied the principles which were the glory of the ancient Templar Order. But it certainly was never intended to follow such practices as those of the “Salvation Army corps” of the present day, by a childish adoption of the titles and imitation Military evolutions of soldiers of the national army, which only tend to bring sacred matters and the Templar degrees into contempt and ridicule of the outside world. Public manifestations do not comport with the ancient Christian defenders of the cross, nor develope religious belief.

The great error which has led to so much confusion as to the true character of Templarism is mainly owing to not distinguishing between the Freemasonry of to-day and that from which it was derived, being in usages and doctrine totally dissimilar. The Templar degrees form no part of the revival of Masonry, A. D. 1717, but refer to and represent the connection that existed long before, between the Ancient Religious and Military Orders of the Crusaders and the Christian Builders. The Templar degrees are only allied to modern Masonry to preserve the Christian doctrines of the building guilds or sodalities of the western world, which found a modern outcome in Speculative Masonry.

It was not until H. R. H., the Prince of Wales, had decided to accept (in 1873) the Grand Mastership of the Masonic Templar body in England, that a careful investigation of its true history, and claims to be considered a part of Speculative Masonry was instituted; heretofore it had never been disputed, taking for granted that all the traditions advanced were founded upon facts, but it has been most clearly proved at the reconstruction of the