

the result of their labours, and giving them an opportunity to prepare such amendments and additions as might be considered advisable. To the Committee and to our indefatigable Sub-Prior as Chairman, who, in this and all other matters connected with the Order which he takes in hand, spares neither time nor trouble, our warmest thanks are due. The Statutes seem to me to have provided for every possible contingency, and are replete as to diction and usefulness, embodying all the requirements necessary for our Canadian legislation. They will now be submitted for your approval and adoption. I may here remark, that I look upon the annual meeting of the "Convent General" as a mistake, and that they might well follow the example of the triennial meetings of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and avoid by too frequent meetings the possibility of complications arising out of legislation in which the different Great Priorities may have no voice, and which can only be met by some agenda of what is proposed to be taken up, being sent round before hand, and in ample time for its mature consideration.

COSTUME.

On the subject of costume the Committee did not consider it necessary to report, or to submit any changes in the beautiful, unimpaired symbolical integrity of that already established, but which is not intended to be worn in public as an out-door costume. The white mantle is emblematic of the purity thereby intended to be denoted, as the wearing of the sword is but symbolic "of the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God," and the cross of the faith and hope to which we cling. I believe it is for the best interests of the Order to avoid all public displays as much as possible, and undue publication of proceedings, such practices being at variance with the true meaning and principle of the order. I have always objected to its being made or considered a *quasi* military body, which has of late appeared to command so much attention, as gratifying a newly-acquired taste for military display and show, and the curiosity of the outside world. I must not be here for a moment misunderstood as in the remotest degree attempting to cast reflections on the admirable system of organization followed by our enthusiastic and zealous fratres of the United States, or on their becoming and tasteful uniform, so appropriate to our day and generation; but that simply I consider it would be out of character for us to adopt it, endeavoring as we are, to approximate to the old order which we represent. Has it never occurred to our fratres who are so anxious to assume a new and dramatic appearance, what an extraordinary phase the order has assumed by the introduction of a system of drill, in imitation of a military body? Have they forgotten that the ancient Templars themselves were all men of rank and position, and not the equivalent of a volunteer militia battalion. No doubt in the early days of the order they fought in a body as fighting knights, without regard to details of military organization; but when the order became numerous and powerful, and when military formations, tactics, and drill prevailed, there can be no doubt that the Templars retained a powerful body of men at arms, and themselves occupied all superior positions. We have an actual evidence of this in the contemporary order of Malta; wherein in the modern period the Knights not only maintained paid land forces, but a navy also. The sight of an army in which all the privates are knights is indeed something to be looked upon with curiosity.

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