

throw ridicule upon *any* society, who, from disinterested, philanthropic motives endeavor, from *any* and *every* source, to elevate and direct the mind to higher and purer thoughts and line of conduct. "The truth may enter the heart by more ways than one, and their—intellect and sentiment—are neither to be divided from the other." And certainly, no man,—no method,—is common or unclean that leads to the truth.

My own convictions are entirely opposed to outside show, gatherings and processions, as grave innovations on the established order of things, tending, as they do, to overshadow the true principles upon which English Templary is founded. At the same time, I am delighted to find a move has been made in the right direction, by holding conversaziones and social reunions, where it is but natural the younger members should wish to appear in a becoming costume, suitable to their position and the usages of the time, and as representatives of an ancient and important association, wear a more distinctive dress than the usual one of a civilian.

I think it right to notice that some of the Masonic periodicals of the U. S. are congratulating themselves that the Preceptories in Canada have adopted the American Templars' uniform, to the exclusion of our true Templar costume, the white mantle and tunic. This, I am happy to say, is not the case. A few members—whose sole object in joining the Order, it would appear, was from motives of amusement and ostentatious display, have done so, on sufferance and by permission of Great Priory as an *out door* dress; (the wearing of the mantle and tunic being confined to the chapter room, unless by special permission); but the majority still adhere closely to the regulation costume and badges, which have *not* been repealed by Great Priory; and it is to be hoped *never* will, and certainly *not* in my day as Supreme Grand Master,—the *investiture* of the *white* mantle and surcoat, or tunic, forming a leading feature of our ritualistic ceremonial, which *cannot* be dispensed with.

However appropriate the American Templar uniform may be in their system and amongst themselves, it is looked upon with anything but favor in Her Majesty's Dominions. The members when appearing in their quaint head-dress and overloaded gilt trappings, look more like some festive holiday society, bent on exhibiting themselves for the admiration of the public, than staid Soldiers of the Cross. Besides, all these mock military parades and uniform, are quite unfitted for members who have arrived at maturer years, entailing an extravagant and wasteful expenditure, which could be far better employed carrying out the beneficent teachings of

the Order. No member can be obliged to provide himself with an "out-door" costume, nor to wear one unless it be his own wish.

CONCLUSION.

Fratres, I have thus endeavored to lay before you, what, after years of careful investigation, appears to me to be the true meaning and intention of our English Templar System, and the object of its teachings, but must claim your indulgence if I have expressed myself too freely and strongly. My motives have been actuated by the *one* desire, that of preserving intact the principles of Templary as transmitted to us from the mother country.

I do not for a moment impugn or call into question the religious feelings and principles of the members of the Order, but to warn them against attempts which we daily see made to undermine the principles and teachings of true Templary—for is it not sad to notice the inroads infidelity is making amongst all classes of society, and the sceptical arguments introduced into the Masonic body? "The sceptic scoffs at religion, vainly imagining that man does not want a Saviour, or what is called religion—his creed is: all that is required, is to do what is right, and he believes that every man could do so if he chose. He might despise the man who was idle, drunken, and immoral, but he also despises the man who calls himself religious." Such are the errors and evils of the age we live in, and from which we as Templars have to guard against.

I delight in the vigorous, all sufficient creed of the true Templar. If a man is capable of understanding and appreciating the exhortation in our ritual:—"Put on the whole armor of God," then indeed he has found peace and rest in the Christian Templar Order; if on the other hand, he feels that he has been permitted to stand on ground too *secret* for him,—if he is disappointed in not finding the Order a bauble—a fast time—a matter of course,—then he turns away, leaving his armor to rust, and after the first solemn impressions are effaced, no longer thinks of the vows he has sealed at the altar. May not this be mainly owing to the light and careless manner in which, I fear too frequently, the ceremonies are conducted by Preceptors who are themselves often ignorant of the true meaning and proper method of communicating them?

Fratres, I speak and feel thus warmly in my anxiety for the future welfare and prosperity of the Order in Canada, which I have for a life-time assisted to build up.

My failing health and increasing years admonish me, and I cannot shut my eyes and dismiss from my mind the consciousness that ere long I shall not be here, and therefore the feeling is constantly with