

to be exclusively formed from the Masonic fraternity, but in no way to interfere with the government of the National Great Priories, none of whose members could claim as a right the privilege of belonging to it. Affiliation, by conferring the honorary distinctions of Commanders and Grand Crosses, resting solely with the Grand Master, thus placing the Order on something of the same footing as that in "Sweden," and making it a connecting link between Freemasonry and the State Orders of the realm. By this means its ancient chivalric and autocratic character would be preserved without interfering with its cosmopolitan and independent position in connection with Freemasonry, which does not admit of the restrictions necessary in the social requirements of civil life

The failure of "Convent General" may in some measure have arisen from this circumstance, as a similar attempt to unite the chivalric and Masonic elements of Templary had been made some years prior to that of Sir Patrick Colquhoun, by the late distinguished Brother Major-General Chatterton, of Cork, Ireland, which completely failed.*

VIOLATION OF REGULATIONS AND STATUTES.

The general regulations of the Order and our Statutes clearly lay down precise rules for the guidance of members, to which unqualified obedience is required. You best know how they have hitherto been observed. If I might judge from personal observation, particularly in the matter of equipment, no rule seems to be adhered to but that which pleases the fancy, or suits the convenience of members; all this may be looked upon as trivial and of small importance, but is nevertheless a direct deviation from our rules, and should not be. If it was only for the sake of uniformity and consistency, or even as a matter of courtesy when attending the annual assemblies of the Great Priory, while it is anything but complimentary to the presiding officer to appear without the prescribed costume, or to dispense with the usual formalities and etiquette that would not be tolerated

*At the same time it appears feasible to form a "Convent General" into a legitimate branch of the Order, with a Knightly descent that could not be gainsayed. The Order of "Christ," being a genuine branch of the Old Templar Order, (in fact, may be considered the only one that has survived) and is now an order of the State in Portugal, if H. R. H. the Prince of Wales (or any of the nobles connected with our Order to represent him), was to express a wish to receive The Order of "Christ," no doubt the Portuguese Sovereign would be willing to gratify him. Once admitted, it would insure an undisputed descent from the originators of the Order. According to the ancient rules of Knighthood, one Knight could create or dub another; and H. R. H., or his representative, could then transmit the Knighthood of the Temple and membership in the Order to whom he pleased, and they in turn again transmit it to others, under certain defined restrictions. This may look visionary, but like many visions, is practicable.