

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 views 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 sacred 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 me: "That *what* my hands find to do, I must do it with all my might;" ever remembering: "That truth is a giant—she is divine—and all the armies arraigned against her will surely be brought to shame."

Another year may find my place vacant in your ranks, and it be no longer permitted me to address you; let me then implore you to guard well the "sacred landmarks" of the Order against all innovation, and all attempts to change or modify its doctrinal teaching.

I now wish to express to you the gratification and pleasure I have always felt at our reunions, and my warmest acknowledgments for the sympathy shown me in hours of affliction, and the many kindnesses I have received at the hands of my brother Templars. "It leaves a bright halo in the memory that is enduring." My life, like all the rest of the human family, has been full of changes and many vicissitudes, which I have been mercifully spared and strengthened