

The order is enjoying a healthy and vigorous growth, the net gain for the past year being 127.

According to the following decision which was approved, the candidate is not a member of the Commandery in which he was elected in Maine, nor, we presume is he a member of the Commandery in California in which he received the degrees, so the unfortunate individual is out in the cold with no home to go to. The law should be amended to meet such cases and to allow the candidate to remain a member of the Commandery which elected him, although he may have received the degrees out of courtesy in another Commandery. The work done pursuant to the request should be considered as the work of the body making the request:

"A candidate for the Orders of Knighthood was elected by a commandery in this state, but before he could receive the orders removed to California. The Commandery which elected him then requested Colifornia Commandery of San Francisco, to confer the orders upon the candidate as an act of courtesy, which they did and sent a certificate to that effect, and requested the Recorder of the Commandery in Maine to enroll him as a member.

A communication in which the Main Commandery claimed him as a member was sent to me.

Reply. The 'Digest of Templar Law,' Title XXXVIII, Sec. 1, is explicit upon the subject of membership. I quote: 'Those to whom a charter is issued, and those who receive the Order of the Temple in a commandery, are *ipso facto* members thereof, whether such a commandery be chartered or under dispensation.' A commandery has no power under the Constitution of the Grand Encampment to confer the orders upon a candidate accepted by another commandery, as an act of courtesy. The candidate becomes a member of the commandery in which he receives the Orders of Knighthood. Your request to California Commandery can only be considered a waiver of jurisdiction."

The Grand Recorder is the Chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, the other members being Josiah H. Drummond and Edward P. Burnham. We approve the following:

"We say that suspension from membership for non-payment of dues should not be suspension from the rights and benefits of the fraternity, for that is too severe a penalty for what is strictly a matter between candidate and lodge organization, and it does not accord with the ancient usages of the craft, but as the Grand Lodge of Virginia is supreme in its own jurisdiction, and as the Grand Encampment recognizes that fact, we have no right to

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