

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.

CANADIAN AND AMERICAN TEMPLARISM.

Editor of THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN.

DEAR SIR & BRO.—In your issue of **THE CRAFTSMAN** for the month of August, wherein you give publicity to my last Templar Allocution—intended as a brief history and synopsis of the modern Templar degrees in the British Empire—my attention was drawn to an article asking me “to show the embodiment of the military aspects in the Masonic Templar degrees.” The answer to this is simply what I stated in the Allocution,—that “the degrees are not, and never were, intended to represent a military body.” The adaptation of the United Chivalric Orders to Free Masonry is entirely confined to their Religious and Moral teachings. The military element of the Ancient Orders was never attempted to be shown in the modern degrees, practiced in alliance with “Free and Accepted Masonry.” It has only been introduced and insisted upon of late years, in the system adopted by our brothers of the United States of America, to represent in a dramatic form the out-door equipments and military display in imitation of the Crusaders, all the degrees connected with their Masonic system, they consider as being derived from modern Speculative Masonry, having no reference to the ancient Christian builders.

The Military History of the Chivalric Templars will be found in the English edition of “The Order,” by Addison; and that of St. John of Jerusalem or Malta in the interesting

work of General Porter, of the Royal Engineers.

Masonic out-door military display, public demonstrations and processions are looked upon in the British Dominions as inconsistent with the principles and unobtrusive character of Free Masonry, and have never been generally patronized.

I altogether disagree with the suggestion in another article of the same number of **THE CRAFTSMAN**,—“to take into consideration the evolutionary status of Templary in the United States of America,—that the Christian basis of our system be so broadened as to include Unitarians and public military manifestations, in imitation of the crusaders.”

The Templary of the U. S. A. has been made, and is at present, a part of Speculative Masonry—of the universal creed: i.e., the system with Capitular Masonry, has been in one sense united, and is governed by the same fundamental principles, which do not apply to the Templar degrees of the British Empire. And surely no one who has passed through the ceremonial, and for a moment seriously considered the sacred teachings of the “United Orders” in Canada, can think or wish to adopt such a compromise as to eliminate the Christian Trinitarian test of the Ancient Order. There are not two kinds of Christianity, although it has been attempted to show that such is the case. The one is the old and pure, the other the new, to suit the usages of the world and the wishes of mankind.

Those Canadian members who so admire and are anxious to change the Templar system for one on American principles had better sever all con-