

ceive and rightly appreciate it; therefore the oftener the truths of our order are repeated, and the more impressive the lessons are made, the better become our members; hence I say the time employed in accomplishing that proficiency in the tactics and drill necessary to the capture of a first or second prize in a competitive drill, can and ought to be devoted to the more useful and necessary accomplishment of a proficiency in legitimate Templar and asylum work, a work that will deepen and widen our better natures, and broaden our desires for works of charity and true beneficence, and that thus the objects of the order may not be perverted.

Remove the show and parade, and possibly some would lose interest in the order, but if they would, what of it? If their only object in continuing their connection with the order is that they may appear in public with their feathers on, the sooner they have done with Templarism the better it will be for them, and the order as well. They are as mere butterflies, without utility, and therefore useless appendages.

I am aware that the opinions here expressed will not be received in a favorable light by many, but ask only that careful consideration for the views here expressed that the subject demands, and this I trust will be accorded by all those who have the capacity to rightly understand and appreciate them. I am constrained to thus give my views upon this, to my mind, most important subject, because I believe we are gradually losing sight of the grander and more important mission of the order, and should retrace our steps before proceeding further in the present course. It is true there are many worthy Sir Knights who are proficient both in Templar tactics and asylum work, and who take as great pride in one as in the other, but their number is small when compared with the whole, and I do not wish to disparage the

work of any such, nor detract any word of praise that may be due any one who has schooled himself in this particular. The Sir Knight competent to drill and confer the orders of Knighthood is to be congratulated, but there are so few of them who ever make this proficiency, and so few who even care to do so, that I believe it is more to the advantage of the Sir Knight to enforce if possible a knowledge of asylum work upon all who claim the protection of our banners, not forgetting to instruct each Sir Knight in the tactics in so far at least as to enable him to take his place in the ranks at funerals and all other legitimate Templar occasions. But to teach and practice the tactics and drill to the exclusion of all other matters, is to my mind a wrong to the body of Templarism, and foreign to the original purposes of the order. That there are many Sir Knights thus educated I think no one will gainsay.

The sentiments expressed in this article are not made or intended to be considered as captious or fault-finding, but are thrown out for the purpose of opening up a discussion of the subject upon its merits, with the hope that the order may be thereby benefited. I am convinced that many have, and many still are knocking at our doors because of the opportunities thereby gained to appear before the public clad in the beautiful uniform of a Knight Templar. This is a broad assertion, but it is nevertheless true. An incident to prove and substantiate the same occurred recently. A young man, who shall be nameless, was very anxious to petition the commandery for membership, and was informed that before being qualified to do so, it would be necessary for him to take the necessary preceding degrees of Masonry (he not being a Mason), he at once replied that he cared nothing for the other degrees, didn't want them, simply wanted to take a short cut, bound into the commandery with a regular