

the Templar body was essentially a Masonic body, and should always be so designated. That another fundamental change was that the power of electing their own Grand Master, and of making their own statutes, was taken away from them. That past rank was done away with, and members thereby deprived of honors they had acquired. Certain things were given in exchange, such as Grand Cross and Knight Commander, but they were titles which did not represent work. They were meaningless imitations of civil orders which had no connection with Freemasonry. That the qualification of candidates was changed by the abolition of the R. A. qualification, and the substitution of two years' standing as a Master Mason. This question had on two occasions been submitted to Grand Conclave, and decided in the negative. There had, on one of these occasions, been a proposition to add the 18° as a qualification, and that was also thrown out. That by the present statutes three black balls excluded, but by the proposed statutes, the election must be unanimous. The conditions were stringent enough already, as the names of all candidates had to be submitted to the Provincial Grand Commander, and Encampments could reduce the number of black balls if they thought fit. That the dress was not improved, but rather the reverse by the present statutes, but that was not very important. That the Grand Master, in ratifying these statutes, must have been ignorant of what he was asked to do; it gave him great pain to make the statement. For these reasons he maintained that these statutes could not pass, but should be sent back for revision.

Sir Knight J. F. Holden seconded the amendment.

The Grand Prior, the Earl of Limerick, essayed a reply, but we must frankly say that he did not once meet the vital objection, viz: the elimination of the Royal Arch degree as a prerequisite of the Order of the Temple.

Sir Emra Holmes, Grand Provost, also endeavored to meet the objections of the General Clerk.

On account of this ostracism of the Royal Arch by the Convent General, Sir Knight J. F. Holden stated that in the Provinces there was some little feeling now as to allowing the Templars to meet in Masonic rooms; and he apprehended there would be great difficulty in getting the loan of rooms for their meetings if it was known that the Masonic qualification was to be interfered with.

We apprehend that such will be the result in many instances, although it has been agreed that Master Masons of two years' standing shall be eligible to become Templars, but when we take into consideration that nine-tenths of those Master Masons who care, or have cared to become Templars have already become Royal Arch Masons. The amendment offered by the General Clerk, (viz: to recommit the statutes to the Commissioners,) was rejected by a vote of 19 ayes to 28 nays. The Statutes were then adopted. The Convent General