

among our Canadian Fraters, who seem to be never satisfied to let well alone, but are ever craving for a change in Canadian Templary, without apparently knowing or caring what inconsistencies are introduced, so long as their ideas of military pomp and display are satisfied:—

“Our veteran chief of the Canadian Knights Templar has again favoured the Craft with another of his interesting addresses on the history of Knight Templary, and to our mind, the last is one of the best we have had the privilege of receiving and perusing. His references to the Jubilee of the ‘Most constitutional reign the world ever saw,’ that of our ‘Gracious Sovereign Queen Victoria, the patron of our Templar Order,’ are such as might well be expected from such a devoted loyalist as Col. Moore. He much deplores the difficulty between England and Canada Masonically, in consequence of the issue of a warrant by the latter body for Melbourne, Victoria. His view of the subject, however, was not taken by the Great Priory of Canada, the members resolving to continue the charter in spite of the claim made by Col. Clerke, Great Sub-Prior of England. This is much to be regretted in every way, but into the matter we decline to enter under present circumstances. What concerns us is the Colonel’s ‘Historical Dissertation on Templar Rituals and their Masonic Connection,’ which is the chief feature of this year’s Allocation. His object is ‘to show true Templary is purely Christian, and in no way a part of universal Masonry.’ This has been our contention for many years, and it is very satisfactory to see the belief so ably justified by the Great Prior of Canada, who, by many of us, is looked upon as the best informed Knight Templar in the world. He speaks most favorably of ‘one of the most exhaustive and reliable histories by R. F. Gould, Barrister-at-Law, London, England, ever publish-

ed on Free Masonry,’ and declares it to be ‘a perfect mine of information not to be found in any other work on the subject.’ This, we believe, is the simple truth, and it is refreshing to find so old a Masonic student as Col. Moore, so ready to acknowledge the pre-eminence of the Masonic historian, a position now generally assigned to Bro. Gould.

“The Colonel considers that Masonic Templary originated from the ‘High Grade’ system, soon after speculative Freemasonry was imported from England to the Continent of Europe about 1740. We are told that ‘To the indefatigable literary labors of our Illustrious Brother (General Pike) is due the remodelling and placing the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite above all other High Degree Rites, and preserving the true meaning of ancient Masonic symbolism.’ Col. Moore also states that it was not until about 1780—although known in Great Britain some twenty or thirty years earlier, that Templary secured any official recognition in connection with the Royal Arch degree.” The earliest date re Knight Templar in England is 1779, at York, the ‘Baldwin,’ Bristol, following from 1780. In America, however, the records begin as early as 1769, which is certainly curious, to say the least. The formation ‘of the Grand Conclave Knight Templar in 1791 is next considered, its re-founding in 1804-7, and its reconstruction in 1873.’ British Templary continues to the present day closely allied to the Craft although eminently Christian—none being admitted but members of the Masonic body, and such only as profess themselves Trinitarian Christians.” The Great Prior, moreover, affirms that ‘the degrees of Templary are not and never were intended to represent a military organization, but to perpetuate the religious principles upon which the ancient order was founded. . . . We do not pretend to believe that the Degrees of the Temple and Malta are in direct de-