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FOURTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY, BROCKVILLE, 1887. 321

"Knights Templar" and ritualistic knowledge confined to military pomp and ceremoniel is but a shell without the kernel.

With the *present* Templar rite of the United States of America we have nothing to do, and no right to interfere, and it is certainly far from any wish on my part, further than to show how *totally* different it is from the standpoint taken by us, and to explain the difficulty of any union between the systems, to the effect that Canadian Templars should cease to be imitators and learn to have more respect for themselves.

Templary in the United States of America is a system "*per se*" which they call "Democratic," having no reference to that of *other jurisdictions*. The original intention was of the highest order, but they have changed its whole sacred character, and assumed that of an association for military display to be introduced as an adjunct to Masonic ceremonials and give publicity to *any* religious opinions in consonance with Universal Masonry, plainly evincing the intention to eradicate the doctrines of true Templary altogether from Masonry and adopt a system made to conform to the non-sectarian creed. Such also, in reality, is the meaning of Masonic brethren amongst us, who write upon Templar matters. Many of them do not even belong to the Order, and can have but little knowledge on the subject, certainly no appreciation of its purely orthodox teachings, but who would wish to transfer and amalgamate the Templar Body into the A. & A. S. rite 33°, to which they suppose it properly belongs as Masonic degrees. A similar attempt was made in England when this rite was *first introduced* there from the United States of America.

To follow their ideas would be tantamount to a *total* dissolution of the Order in Canada by changing its whole character into a dishonest attempt to *call and make it what it is not*. Thousands are attracted by outward show, where hundreds are by the principles of the degrees. It is almost incredible to believe that men of education can be brought to think that the whole aim and object of Templary is confined to Craft formula and Military Masonic pageantry, which does not even correctly imitate the ordinary knightly ceremonial and is *not* calculated to inculcate the principles of the Ancient Templars as representing that Order in its *history, doctrine and ritual*.