

uphold the right, defend the weak and oppressed, and succour the destitute. Let it then be no idle boast to say, we belong to an Order, the members of which in the olden time, the great, the good, the noble and the brave of Christendom, were only too proud to call themselves "Poor fellow-soldiers of Jesus Christ," and to the extent of our ability, and the opportunities afforded us, delight to pay homage and follow the precepts of the Great Captain, whose sworn soldiers we are, and that too by our own voluntary act. Of this there is no doubt, the vows are upon us, and whether we try to act in accordance with those vows or not, we can in no wise alter our position to that Great Captain unto whom sooner or later, as it pleaseth Him, we shall have to render an account. To you then, Preceptors of the Order, teachers and rulers, I most emphatically say, it becomes your bounden duty to observe the strictest caution as to whom you admit into your Preceptories. When men are banded together for any purpose, noble or otherwise, there will be those who will seek admission for purely selfish purposes. Do not allow the expediency of increasing your funds or of swelling the ranks of your Preceptories to actuate your motives in admitting those who from mere curiosity or good fellowship seek to join us ; and as is too often the case by their conduct give cause to our enemies to revile and repudiate our illustrious Order ; an Order which has ever raised the jealousy and hatred of that intolerant Church which does not admit the exercise of private judgment or the right of free thought, and would still keep the human mind in the darkness of error and superstition. The Romish Church has been ever jealous of the Masonic Society, and all others connected with it, dreading the dangerous opposition to her unlawful assumption of authority which the great secret organization condemns and bans.

The animosity that suddenly sprung up in the early part of the last century on the part of the Papal authorities towards Freemasonry may have been occasioned by their having only then discovered that their old antagonist, the Templar Order, was perpetuated within the secret recesses of the Masonic Order, and that then for the first time the thunders of the Romish Church were directed at the peaceable and inoffensive Craft ; this would give good reasons for believing that the Papal power had at least become satisfied that the Templar Order, preserved among the Freemasons, was a legitimate continuation of the old anti-Papal Order that had been supposed to have been thoroughly crushed out centuries before. There is nothing in the teaching of Masonry pure and simple to warrant the intense hatred towards it that has for the last hundred years been displayed by the Holy See. We must therefore look for some occult reason for this hatred, and what better reason could be found than that the Masonic Order had shielded and preserved the Order of The Temple. In 1776, the Jesuits, having discovered that the Templar Order was continuing its operations under the designation of the Kadosh, warned the Governments of Roman Catholic countries against the latter Order, and caused it to be proscribed as dangerous and antagonistic to the doctrines of the Church of Rome.

CONSTITUTION AND STATUTES.

The Committee appointed to draft a code of Statutes for the future government of this Grand Body, have ably performed their duty. Copies have already been issued to each Preceptory, thus placing before the whole of the members