

Canada have adopted the American Templars' uniform, to the exclusion of our true Templar costume, the white mantle and tunic. This, I am happy to say, is not the case. A few members—whose sole object in joining the Order, it would appear, was from motives of amusement and ostentatious display, have done so, on sufferance and by permission of Great Priory as an *out-door* dress; (the wearing of the mantle and tunic being confined to the chapter-room, unless by special permission); but the majority still adhere closely to the regulation costume and badges, which have *not* been repealed by Great Priory; and it is to be hoped *never will*, and certainly *not* in my day as Supreme Grand Master;—the *investiture* of the *white mantle* and surcoat, or tunic, forming a leading feature of our ritualistic ceremonial, which *cannot* be dispensed with.

However appropriate the American Templar uniform may be in their system and amongst themselves, it is looked upon with anything but favor in Her Majesty's Dominions. The members when appearing in their quaint head-dress and over-loaded gilt trappings, look more like some festive holiday society, bent on exhibiting themselves for the admiration of the public, than staid Soldiers of the Cross. Besides, all these mock military parades and uniform, are quite unfitted for members who have arrived at maturer years, entailing an extravagant and wasteful expenditure, which could be far better employed carrying out the beneficent teachings of the Order.

No member can be obliged to provide himself with an "out-door" costume, nor to wear one unless it be his own wish.

CONCLUSION.

Fratres, I have thus endeavored to lay before you, what, after years of careful investigation, appears to me to be the true meaning and intention of our English Templar System, and the object of its teachings, but must claim your indulgence if I have expressed myself too freely and strongly. My motives have been actuated by the *one* desire, that of preserving intact the principles of Templary as transmitted to us from the mother country.

I do not for a moment impugn or call into question the religious feelings and principles of the members of the Order, but to warn them against attempts which we daily see made to undermine the principles and teachings of true Templary—for is it not sad to notice the inroads infidelity is making amongst all classes of society, and the sceptical arguments introduced into the Masonic body? "The sceptic scoffs at religion, vainly imagining that man does not want a Saviour, or what is called religion—his creed is: all that is required, is to do what is right; and he believes that every man could do so if he