

Templars of the United States are to become drill-sergeants to a new, flashy branch of Oddfellowship. The thing is outrageous. Yet here are the facts: "Last month twenty Sir Knights of De Molay Commandery, of Louisville, Ky., went to Baltimore to teach certain *Oddfellow Knights* the new drill." Ohio says her Templars are not to belong to certain Masonic organizations. Kentucky goes to the other extreme, and sends out her *Fratres* to teach the young ideas of "the canton" of the military (?) branch of Oddfellowship, its drill. A worthy object for American Sir Knights.

This is the result of drill and parades. The triennials of the Republic have cost the American *Fratres* millions of dollars, and yet they have not an orphans' home or a widows' asylum. We long to note at the next triennial, if each Sir Knight will put up ten dollars (\$10) towards a Templar Charitable Fund. Which Commandery will move first in it? Away, then, with the show and tawdry uniforms; with out-door parades that lead to competitive exhibitions, little better than base-ball gatherings, and finally, to becoming a corps of drill-sergeants to other societies. A nice state for a Knight Templar.

CAN THE BALLOT BE REVEALED?

It has ever been acknowledged as one of the most important features of our Fraternity, that the ballot should be kept secret; in fact, our learned and distinguished brother, John W. Simmons, in his *Jurisprudence*, goes so far as to declare that "the secrecy of the ballot is a landmark," yet we

are now prepared to argue that under certain circumstances it is the duty, the bounden duty, of a brother to reveal his ballot when called upon to do so by competent authority.

No doubt much may be said on both sides, and we are willing to admit that a brother is liable to censure and suspension who does so, but on the other hand where a gross violation of honor and sacred and solemn obligation, and an actual criminal offence against justice has been openly and frequently permitted, there is but one course for brethren to pursue, in order to obtain the ends of justice, and that is to demand a commission from the Grand Master, and after explaining to him the true position of affairs, it is his duty to order them to appear before that commission and there on their Masonic OB expose and lay bare the assumed vile and wicked conspiracy, by which they claim they have been robbed of their rights as freemen and Freemasons.

But in order to render the case clearer, it may be as well to put the case—it is this—certain brethren in a Toronto Lodge claim they blackballed certain candidates, and that the Worshipful Master and Wardens, acting in collusion, declared the ballot clear, and actually initiated said candidates, although four or five brethren in the room had blackballed said candidates. Under such circumstances, we maintain it was the duty of these men to protest, and if necessary to have revealed their ballots then and there in open Lodge. Suppose the Lodge had suspended them for so doing, the Grand Master would doubtless next day have removed the sentence and ordered the Master and Wardens to have been placed on trial for entering into a conspiracy of a most vile and criminal character.

Surely no Mason can seriously argue in such a case that an act of such gross injustice is to go un-