

facetiously express it, a gathering together of fragments from the ancient and long forgotten system, which clever ritualistic manufacturers have appropriated, placing interpolations upon them to suit their own views, and it seems to have been the custom in the last century for "High Grade" Masons, particularly French ones, to take possession of the names of "State" Orders of Knighthood and *invent* rituals appropriate to them, and then confer them as Masonic degrees. There are numerous instances of this in Oliver's list of Masonic degrees.

All Masonic writers of repute are of opinion that the best of these degrees, is the "Rose Croix," and singularly enough, this, with the "Kadosh," were Templar degrees, having nothing to do with the aggregation of side degrees which compose the remainder of the rites. The "Rose Croix" and "Kadosh" originally belonged to our English Templar system, and were somewhat surreptitiously obtained by the A. & A. S. Rite 33° on its establishment in England.

The "Rose Croix of Herodim," in the original form of the "English" Templar, was the next step *after* the Templar ceremony, possessing similar characteristics, the object in both being the same. The Templar perhaps confining itself more to facts, while the "Rose Croix" displays more of the allegory. The "Rose Croix," severed from Templar, has but little meaning.

I am quite in accord with old members who are *united* in opinion that it should never have been separated, and I would be glad to see it again restored to its proper place in this Sovereign Great Priory and worked, instead of the non-Christian degree of the Babylonish Red Cross, so entirely out of place, and without significance amongst the Templar degrees, but to which a few Preceptories cling, where the American element predominates, it being a part of their system, and only tolerated but in no way belonging to ours, its great attraction consisting in its scenic Oriental display and costume, and last, though not least, "regal banquet."

The Rose Croix, as now conferred, does not exclusively belong to the A. & A. S. Rite 33° of Canada; other rites and systems claiming it with the Kadosh—a degree referring to the suppression and persecution of the Ancient Templars, which I do not consider of so much importance as the "Rose Croix."

PRECEPTORIES AND PRECEPTORS.

Since our last meeting, I have found it advisable to remove "Gondemar" Preceptory from the small village of Maitland to the neighboring well-known beautiful town of Brockville, on the St.