

The Holy Trinity in Templarism.

We do not propose at the present time to re-open the controversy regarding the doctrine of the Holy and Indivisible Trinity, which we view as an essential landmark of the English and Canadian Templar Bodies, but in order to show that the dogma is one accepted by some of the leading minds of the Templar organization of the neighboring Republic, we have much pleasure in quoting some of the remarks of Past Grand Master Sir Knight Jas. H. Hopkins, of Pennsylvania, at the Grand Commandery of that State last year, upon the same:—"I concur most cordially," he says, "with the sentiments expressed in the report on Foreign Correspondence (the report advocated the doctrine of the Holy Trinity as the foundation stone of Templary), and with the remarks just made in reference to the belief of Knights Templar in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, I have always contended that our Order rested upon that foundation or upon nothing; that all our ceremonies, symbols and lessons declare our belief in the Holy Trinity.

"Having this strong conviction, when I was called on some years since to prepare the code of statutes of the Grand Encampment of the United States, I incorporated a clause requiring a candidate for our Orders to declare his belief in the Trinity. When the full committee came together to consider the code there was some discussion as to the necessity for this explicit declaration. I remember that Sir Knight Drummond argued as he states in the extract just read from his address; but I also remember that the majority of the committee held unqualifiedly that belief in the Trinity was requisite to gain admission to our asylum, and it was considered this belief was affirmed by a declaration of faith in the Christian religion; hence a further avowal upon this proposition was unnecessary.

"I am surprised that Sir Knight

Drummond should leave the impression which his remarks might convey, that the Committee on the Code designed to 'palter in a double sense.'

"The requirement of a specific declaration of belief in the Holy Trinity was omitted from the code simply because it was deemed an unnecessary addition to an avowal which unquestionably implied full faith in the Trinity. I feel sure a majority of the Committee on the Code had no other thought."

Sir Knight Hopkins has placed rather a different version upon this subject to that which Sir Knight Drummond did when he entered into a controversy upon the same with Sir Knight Robert Ramsay and Sir Knight McClenaghan some two or three years ago, when the last named Fratres insisted and conclusively proved that the doctrine of the Holy Trinity was originally acknowledged by the Templars of the United States, especially since some of the Encampments at that time conferred the grade of Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, in whose ceremonies the Gloria Patri is used.

Sir Knight Samuel Harper, Chairman of the Foreign Correspondence Committee of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, says: "We agree with Sir Knight Corson that the Holy Trinity is a cardinal doctrine of the Christian religion to-day, and that it is beyond doubt that it has been so ever since the second century. It was formulated in the Nicene Creed, which was adopted by the Council of Nice in A. D. 325 and perfected at Constantinople in 381. It is embodied in the Apostles' Creed, which is to-day recognized throughout Christendom and used in all our Asylums. Knights Templar throughout the length and breadth of the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment are required over and over again to repeat it.

"The forms for the institution of Commanderies and the installation of officers, which were recently promulgated under the authority of the