

before it, but we do not apprehend that it was ever contemplated that, as organizations, we should join hand with Church or State in any enterprise, moral, beneficent or political. We may admire a purpose to blot out the most degrading vice of the ages, but we cannot consent to a departure that is but a single remove from the introduction of questions that, all will admit, cannot have a place within our Asylums. One can be a Democrat, another a Republican; one can be a Methodist, Presbyterian, or Romanist. We may urge legislation hostile to the use or sale of rum, or we may oppose it, but never as Commanderies can we discuss or act upon propositions that trench upon those convictions of duty and obligation that have their foundations in our own ethical codes. We do not suppose that our brethren of Kansas entertain adverse views upon this subject, but we feel that they have taken a step that may justify other departures that will ultimately introduce bickerings and strife.

At page XXX., the Recorder plainly and very forcibly remarks:—

Vice degrades and removes us from every approach to a higher life and makes a Templar's professions senseless falsehood—senseless because he cannot practice the antipodes of his obligations and not make an exhibition of himself that any school-boy does not comprehend. It is not an unfrequent occurrence to hear men, on occasions so familiar to a Templar, branch out upon a homily and oblivious to the fact that his hearers are not deceived by his pretensions. There have been times, we presume, in the world's history when stole and chasuble were accepted as evidences of integrity; but mankind has long since learned that external display is not a guarantee that these outward demonstrations are not a mockery. The vestments of a Templar are transparent. They are becoming to a Mason, but upon the shoulders of the depraved they only, by contrast, exhibit a deformity that might have otherwise escaped general attention. If a vicious man is anxious to advertise his impurity successfully, he should persistently display the cross and crown.

E. Sir Knight G. W. Barnard, 192 Clark St., Chicago, is Grand Recorder.

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