

first; the Knight Templar, which is synonymous with the Rose Croix and Kadosh, the second; the Knight of Malta or St. John of Jerusalem, (a detached degree) the third; the Knight of the Christian Mark, the fourth; and the Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, the fifth and last. These five degrees were embodied as Encampment degrees, and conferred at that time from a ritual of the A. & A. S. Rite, from which they were principally derived. Masonic lecturers, however, took them in hand and shaped them according to their own fancies, and in the year 1816 a Grand Encampment was organized, (Knight of the Christian Mark and Knight of the Holy Sepulchre being dropped), and the Knight Templar system of the United States established as it now stands, *eliminating from its obligation all reference to the Holy Trinity.*"

I have thus quoted extensively from my letter to *The Keystone* to prove that my statement in *The Gavel* to the effect that the O. B. of the American Templars was so modified as to permit of the admission of Unitarians into the Order was correct. Hence the Templar organization of the United States differs essentially in an important landmark from all other Templar organizations, and since it is the youngest branch of Templary, it is well to view the matter from an impartial stand point, and reflect as to the advisability of conforming its regulations in accordance to those of the parent branches of the Order, in all of which the Trinitarian doctrine is viewed as a landmark.

Bro. Drummond says, "Bro. Ramsay seems in his use of the phrase 'Christian and Trinitarian' to imply

involuntarily that the former does not include the latter," but as our learned Brother does not desire to enter into controversy on that point, we would only repeat that the Christian Dogma does not necessarily embrace a belief in the Trinitarian Doctrine; there are Unitarian Christians; there are Christians who believe in a dual God and credit not the third person of the God-head; and there are Trinitarian Christians.

Now, I maintain that as soldiers of the Cross, and the nominal descendants of the Crusaders of old, we should as closely identify ourselves with the Templar Creed of those who followed Peter the Hermit, and deluged the plains of Jerusalem with their blood, in defence of the Christian Religion, as expounded by Fathers of the Church, and which Creed was a landmark of the Order, and ever held as such by the Freres of England, Ireland, and Scotland, and which the martyred DeMolai, when summoned before the Commission, advocated in the following words: "In faith the Order (K. T.) was never wanting; I attest that I believe in God, in the three persons of the Trinity, and all the other articles of the Christian faith; I believe there is but one God, one faith, one baptism, one Christ, and that in death, when the soul is separated from the body, there is but one judge of the good and evil." This, I maintain, is the True Templar Creed; and to call ourselves Knights Templar and deny the landmark of the Order is evidently erroneous."—*The Gavel*.

\*I note in K. T. Petitions to Commanderies in Pennsylvania, special mention is made of the doctrine of the Trinity, the same as in England, Ireland, Scotland, and Canada.