

It is, however, more than probable that many who neither attended Grand Conclave, nor troubled themselves to read the Biennial Reports, knew little or nothing of the matter, otherwise their ignorance of the facts could not have been thus used to mislead them.

The first grievance in the Dorsetshire memorial, of which the others are for the most part mere transcripts, is a general and unsupported assertion, viz., that "the experience since acquired of the effect and working of these new Statutes convinces the memorialists that they are detrimental to the best interests of the Order, and must inevitably, in the course of time, thin its ranks and weaken its influence."

After this general and sweeping assertion, the memorial enters into detail:

First, it states it is undesirable to drop the title "Masonic." Let it now be seen how this matter stands.

It is acknowledged that the Order is a Christian society. That the Masonic qualification is indispensable is granted; but, on the other hand, it may be alleged that the word "Masonic" is the exclusive right of Craft Masonry, and is an assumption on the part of any other secret society, for in Templary there is *no* Masonic allegory. The Irish designate themselves as High Templars. The Scotch do not assume it. The American branch repudiates it as inappropriate, and as the assumption of the title of another degree.

As this prefix was an introduction of modern date and changed nothing in substance, the committee had no difficulty in acceding to its omission, but strengthened the bond by adding the condition that a candidate must not only be a R. A., but also a M. M. of two years' standing.

As the old Order of the Temple was abolished 562 years ago, there is no other body which assumes this title. The military virtues of the old Knights are supposed to be represented as to the moral part of the new Order. The Articles of Union of the Craft of 1815 acknowledge it as a chivalric degree, attached to, but not incorporated with Masonry, and the clause is purely permissive. The body, therefore, be it called what it may, is as much under the protection of 39 Geo. III., C. 79, and 57 Geo. III., C. 19, as Craft Masonry, for all members are Craft Masons, but few know that these Statutes only apply to lodges existent at that date. These acts, therefore, do not protect even Craft lodges established since that date, (1799), and those Preceptories only which were existent before that date.

With respect to the nomenclature of the Order, it is strange to find men persistently advocating the perpetuation of an historical error.

The Masters of Temple houses were called House Preceptories; the Masters of Provinces, Great Preceptors. The Head of the Order was originally termed Simple Master. The word "Grand" was merely the French for great. The equivalent designation of the Hospitallers was Commander, and their estates were called Commanderies, whereas those of the Templars were termed Preceptories.

The question of Past rank has, too, been misrepresented, and it is almost impossible to conceive such ignorance of the Statutes as that alleged in the memorial.

Formerly, he who had passed "the chair," was designated a Past Commander, that is, a retired Commander. The new Statutes make him an actual Preceptor for life, with the right of voting in the Great Body or Parliament of the Order, so long as he continues to subscribe to some Preceptory—nay, he may cease to do so for any length of time, but so soon as he places his name on the roll of any Preceptory, his right and franchise revive; but in Craft Masonry, if he cease to subscribe for a year, his right lapses, and he becomes a mere Master Mason, nor can he recover his position and franchise without again serving as Master of a lodge.

The position of the present Preceptor is, therefore, improved; the office once given to him is lasting. Should, however, those who have served the office before the last Statutes prefer the title of "Past" Preceptor, they are at liberty to adopt it, for all existing rights are reserved.

The dignities of Grand Cross and Commander are superadded: they take nothing from the members, but give something in addition, and it was considered by the joint committee it was due His Royal Highness, when he condescended to assume the Headship of the Order, that he should have the rights belonging to all Crowned Heads, for in that light the Prince of Wales must be considered in relation to the Order; the more so since he has induced Her Majesty, as Head of the State, to take the Order under her patronage and protection. No new dignities or titles have been created in the Order, they all existed in England, Scotland, or Ireland.

With regard to the Past Grand Rank, the number of those who obtained it yearly were twice as many as those who obtained the same rank in the Craft, yet the Temple only counts 2,500 active members, while the Craft numbers as many thousands.

The Provinces complain that they cannot induce the members to pay fees for Grand Rank except it be permanent; they could provide for the necessary expenses by a