

or to produce ridicule or irreverence.

The conclave or meeting, is supposed to be a Chapter of the Preceptory, and not an Encampment, and to take place within the chapel of the Preceptory House; hence the place of meeting is fitted up as a chapel. The installation of the Knights Templar, as also of the Knights of Malta, took place in their chapels. The Knights were never received in the field, but in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, at Jerusalem, or its representative, the Preceptory Chapels of the Order; the headquarters or "home" of the Order being Jerusalem, where the two famous Orders of Knights Templar, and Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem were founded. For this reason, the modern term "Encampment" is discontinued, as incorrect and unwarranted by any authority.

Formerly, military leaders, for distinguished valor, were made "Knights Bannerets, in the open field, under the royal banner in battle displayed." And in ancient times a secular Knight, known as Knight Errant, had the power to make other Knights, by his own authority alone, under certain restrictions; but this had no reference to the Religious Knightly Fraternities.

The title "Sir Knight," used in addressing members is merely a foolish poetical license, to designate "the occupation," as Sir Priest, Sir Page, &c., &c. The proper mode of address was always Frater or Brother. And it is equally incorrect to prefix "Sir" to the Christian name, which implies a rank the prerogative of the Sovereign alone, and is but a ridiculous apeing of national dignities. When denoting a brother of the Temple, as distinguishing the Templar Frater from that of other societies, it was formerly the practice, and should be continued, to affix a cross to the signature when signing as Templars;—the addition of the contraction *F.* or *fr.*—(for Frater, Fratres), is also used.

The ceremonial, then, of the de-

grees of the Templar System authorized by the Great Priory of Canada, represent the United Religious and Military Orders of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem, distinct from Free Masonry, and unconnected with any other Society.

To quote the words of a well-known Templar historian, and member of the Ritual Commission:—"We have retained, in a reformed shape, the imitation Order of the Temple, as a society eminently Christian, purged of all the leaven of heathen rites, words and traditions, to which none are admitted but members of the Masonic body; and such only as profess themselves to be Trinitarian Christians. It bears little resemblance to its prototype, first promulgated in France, and professes to inculcate and imitate the virtues of the original body, without those incidents which no longer apply to the present state of society. It no longer professes to fight against infidels, but to contend against infidelity. It derives its legend from acknowledged secular and ecclesiastical history, and practices a ritual imitated from the ordinary Knightly ceremonial, affording instruction to those who join it, and inculcating a high moral and Christian principle to all its members.

"Freed from the incomprehensible confusion of the old Kadosh, and the Jesuitical invention of the "Rose Croix," with which, until lately, it was associated, it has retained, in a reformed shape, all that was good or worthy of retention."

This Templar System of the British Empire must not be confounded with that now practiced in the United States of America, although derived originally from the same source; for of late years they have transformed it into a Masonic imitation Military Degree, resembling that of a Volunteer Militia Corps, the members being dressed in uniform and subject to strict discipline, retaining the name of Knights Templar, but in usages and doctrines totally dissimilar; its