

character of the Order, by assimilating it to that now practiced in the United States, and enable the admirers of the American Templar army to wear the coveted cocked-hat and feather. It may not be generally known that until a few years back, this Templar uniform was unheard of; for in September, 1859, the Grand Encampment of the United States enacted that the white tunic and mantle with red cross be worn as the distinguishing costume. Previous to that, a black Masonic apron and sash, &c., were the Templar badges, but the passion for public display gaining the ascendancy, principally amongst the younger members, the present change was determined upon to suit the taste or means of the wearers, without any reference to its applicability to the original source of the Order. We are all but children of a larger growth, easily pleased with what catches the eye, losing sight of the sterling and hidden treasure. My own impression is that more harm has already been done to Masonry by parading it before the world, and by senseless show and parade and reckless expenditure of money, than ever can be remedied. Surely, our aim should be higher and more worthy of the noble Order we represent; I do not believe that public processions and a mock military uniform is calculated to raise the Order in the estimation of the world; and have never been an advocate for any indiscriminate increase of the Order, but if such unworthy motives as stated, is the only reason why admittance to our ranks is sought for, the fewer Preceptories and members we have the better. "A benefit bestowed too cheap, is often undervalued." This is true in all associations, and in none more so than that of the Templars, hence the lack of interest that too often prevails, and the culpable neglect in the regularity of paying the trifling dues enjoined to keep it together. On this latter point I feel compelled to make some allusion.

FINANCES OF GREAT PRIORY.

The report in last year's proceedings from the ex-Sub-Prior, † Frater Harman, fully pointed out the financial difficulties of Great Priory, and his suggestions for its liquidation; since then, the Grand Chancellor has furnished me with a detailed statement of our liabilities and a list of Preceptories in arrear. The amount due is still very considerable, although greatly reduced by his zeal and perseverance in placing matters on a more satisfactory basis, but I have still to express my regret at the failure of so many Preceptories to make their returns and remittances. He clearly shows that were all returns sent in, and amount due from each Preceptory paid up to the 31st of December, 1878, he would be enabled to clear off all outstanding claims unavoidably incurred.

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