

Formula of Inception into The Templar Order.

In the early days of the Religious and Military Order of The Knights Templar, a "NOVITIATE" formed an essential part of the course of admission, so that the aspirant might become practically acquainted with the mode of life of the society into which he desired to enter, and also give him an opportunity of discovering whether he was capable of conforming with the severe regulations under which he placed himself.

The reception of a Candidate or Aspirant into the Templar System of Canada, as authorised by the Revised Ritual of 1876, is divided into THREE distinct parts. In the FIRST PART, the Aspirant is received as a Pilgrim and admitted to the degree of NOVICE. The apartment represents the Chapel of the Preceptory. The Altar, having in addition to the Bible and Cross, a Shield, Helmet and Breast-plate of antique armour pattern, with Cross-Hilted Sword and Belt, resting against its sides; also a cushion on the step of the Dais to kneel upon, and on a stand, below the Dais, is placed a Bowl of Water and Napkin.

The Aspirant is prepared as a Pilgrim, wearing a black serge loose robe, sandals of leather soles, with strap to toe and instep; a Pilgrim's or Palmas Staff in his hand, and a purse or scrip fastened to the cord or girdle round his waist; a wallet, or skin knapsack on the back, and leather bottle for water, suspended from the shoulders, with broad-brimmed slouched felt hat ornamented with scallop shells; or a loose hood.

The Aspirant represents a Pilgrim, who had been admitted to the hospitality and protection of the Preceptory, is thus prepared for introduction to the Chapter, by the Sub-Marshal.

The Guard stationed in the Ante-room, gives the alarm, and holds in his hand the Declaration, duly signed and witnessed, of the Aspirant, as required by the General Statutes of The Order.

PART I.—THE NOVICE.

The Guard gives the alarm, 5 & 2.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD [reports to Marshal].—
There is an alarm at the out-post.

MARSHAL.—Frater Sub-Marshal ascertain the cause of the alarm.