

the various benefit and secret societies of all denominations in the United States.

Any allusion irrelevant to the Order, in an address to the Templars of Canada, appears out of place, and I should not now do so, were it not for the apparent growing desire to imitate many of the features of the American Templars.

I cannot understand on what grounds military drills, &c., can be introduced into our *Speculative* Templar System, for, although continuing and preserving the name "Religious and Military," from the Ancient Orders of the Crusades, it has no more to do with a *Military* organization, than *Speculative* Masonry has with *Operative*, and however harmless it may be in itself, has, unfortunately, become the chief attraction, to the prejudice of the true object and interests of the Order, which surely does not require to be brought into notoriety by its members becoming amateur soldiers, any more than Masonic periodicals are enhanced by extraneous sensational tales and ridiculous anecdotes to make them saleable; unless, indeed, it is considered necessary to follow the example of those fanatical societies, like the "Salvation" and "Saved" army corps, who, by their mimicry of military customs, parades and uniform, court popularity to recruit their ranks; but which more frequently entail public contempt, by appearing and conducting themselves, as that old satirist, Dean Swift, expresses it: "More like mountebanks than Christian men."

I do not, by these remarks, intend to throw ridicule upon *any* society, who, from disinterested, philanthropic motives endeavor, from *any* and *every* source, to elevate and direct the mind to higher and purer thoughts and line of conduct. "The truth may enter the heart by more ways than one, and their—intellect and sentiment—are neither to be divided from the other." And certainly, no man,—no method,—is common or unclean that leads to the truth.

My own convictions are entirely opposed to outside show, gatherings and processions, as grave innovations on the established order of things, tending, as they do, to overshadow the true principles upon which English Templary is founded. At the same time, I am delighted to find a move has been made in the right direction, by holding conversaziones and social reunions, where it is but natural the younger members should wish to appear in a becoming costume, suitable to their position and the usages of the time, and as representatives of an ancient and important association, wear a more distinctive dress than the usual one of a civilian.

I think it right to notice that some of the Masonic periodicals of the U. S. are congratulating themselves that the Preceptories in