

The Canadian Craftsman.

Port Hope, May 15, 1884.

H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES AND THE GREAT PRIORY OF CANADA.

As we go to press, we learn by private note from the M. E. †Col. W. J. B. MacLeod Moore, G. C. T., Great Prior of the Great Priory of Canada, that he has received a most courteous and knightly letter from England, written by order of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, Grand Master of the Templar Order in England and Ireland, acknowledging the independence and sovereignty of the Great Priory of Canada, and expressing the kindest wishes for its future welfare. This places beyond question our independent sovereignty, and the Great Priory of Canada is now the peer of any Supreme Templar organization in the world.

Following is the letter:—

"30 UPPER FITZ WILLIAM STREET,
DUBLIN, 17th April, 1884.

Very High and Eminent Great Prior:—

I have received, and duly laid before the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of the United and Religious Military Orders of the Temple and Malta, for England, Ireland, and Canada, your letter of 21st December last, in which you report, for the information of His Royal Highness that the Great Priory of Canada has, for certain good and sufficient reasons, resolved to sever their connection with Convent General, and to constitute themselves henceforward as an independent body, they, therefore, praying that the Grand Master may be pleased to absolve them from their obligations of fealty to himself as their supreme head.

In reply, I am commanded by the Prince of Wales, our Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master to say that as the members of your Great Priory have no doubt arrived at this decision after due and ample consideration of all the circumstances of the case, His Royal Highness readily and willingly grants their request, and hereby absolves them from their allegiance to him-

self as members of Convent General; and he will only add that in their new position he trusts that they may have a prosperous future.

The Grand Master further commands me to say that he has much pleasure in acceding to your personal request to retain possession of your patent of Great Prior of Canada, as an heirloom, which he does in slight recognition of the great zeal and ability with which you have performed the important duties of your high office for many years.

I have the honor to remain, V. H. and Em't Great Prior, yours in the bonds of the order,

(Signed) Fr. † J. F. TOWNSHEND,
Arch. Chancellor, Temp."

The Very High and Em't Great Prior of
Canada,

COL. W. J. B. MACLEOD MOORE,
Priorial House, St. John's, P. Q., Can.

Following is a copy of the letter from the Great Prior of Canada to the Ill. Judge J. F. Townshend, Arch Chancellor Convent General:—

ST. JOHN'S P. Q., 14th Sept., 1883.

V. H. and Em't Arch. Chancellor:—

I beg to inform you that the Great Priory of Canada, having amended its Statutes at the annual assembly on the 10th July last, declaring itself in all respects a Sovereign Independent body of the order, having precedence over and throughout the whole Dominion of Canada, I have now the honor to enclose a petition from the members of Great Priory, praying to be released from the bonds of fealty to Convent General, and H. R. H. the Prince of Wales as Supreme Grand Master thereof, which be pleased to have laid before H. R. H. for his gracious consideration. This step has been taken by Great Priory, realizing the necessity of having the governance of the order in accord with the other Grand bodies of Freemasonry in the Dominion, and also on account of the relations existing between the United States of America and Canada being of so close and intimate a nature, that to prevent the possibility of any feeling of superiority arising between the two jurisdictions, it became necessary, on questions of international Templar importance, that perfect equality should exist.

I have the honor to be, yours, &c.,

(Signed) W. J. B. MACLEOD MOORE,
Great Prior of Canada,
G. C. T.

The Arch. Chancellor Convent General,
THE ILL. JUDGE TOWNSHEND,
G. C. T.,
Dublin, Ireland.