

been ascribed to the action taken by Great Priory—ungenerous in the extreme—for any one even to suppose that such a step was taken with the most distant idea of disrespect to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales,—it was never for a moment thought of. The fact is apparent, that some of our brethren and masonic rulers at home are so entirely averse to the independent movement of the colonies, that they have raised in the masonic press a tirade against the desire for self-government. Are they so short-sighted that they cannot seem to realize that colonists are anything but children and must be kept under tutelage forever? Do they suppose they can prevent independence by indulging in absurd ideas as regards the rights of what they call "our colonies," that rational argument would be simply thrown away upon them? They forget that the colonies were originally peopled by men from home,—men of vigor, energy, and strength of character,—and that their descendants have not deteriorated. Like other people, they have grown up to manhood, in all things, and govern themselves, and will continue to do so masonically. Wisdom and prudent foresight seek to control such for local government and the general welfare; foolishness and judicial blindness oppose the decrees of fate.* Far better carry out practically the teachings of Universal Masonry, by making all necessary concessions, and acknowledging just rights, and thus establish a perpetual alliance of fraternal amity, and make Masonry what it should be—a powerful factor in drawing together the several members of this great empire, of which Canada desires always to form a component part.

Fratres, thirty years have now passed away since I first introduced the Temple Order from England into Canada, and over which I have continuously presided, and now, by your unanimous voice, remain for life its governing head. I need not say how highly I prize and appreciate the honor at your hands.

A new departure has commenced, which, I trust, heralds a prosperous and happy future; but this mainly depends on ourselves, to secure and to obtain which we must be most careful whom we admit to participate in our rites.

*"No doubt the death-blow to the union of the Great Priories was first struck when the special meeting of Convent General was held in England, and the adoption of the arbitrary measure to set aside the decision of the regular meeting in Ireland the year before. Such a course was felt by the Irish members as merely trifling with them, and they never troubled their heads more about the union. In the same way the disregard shown to the feelings of the Masonic fraternity in Canada, by infringing upon their just and recognized rights as the governing power, is creating discontent and alienating the bond of union and affection to the parent body so desirable, and which is the great aim and object of the Masonic fraternity to cement."