

In this matter as far as relates to the Order of the Temple I have not permitted any interference whatever. I had no official communication on the subject, and even if such had been the case I would not have felt myself justified in refusing admittance to *any candidate* Royal Arch Mason in good standing, no matter what jurisdiction he belonged to, or fail to recognize any Knight Templar because he preferred being a member of one Grand Lodge more than another. The statutes of the Temple provide only that its ranks be filled by *Freemasons* who have attained the grade of the Royal Arch, which is in England the climax of the 3rd degree, further than this *no other* connection exists between the masonic body and the Temple Order.

Our English Templar system is but a revival of the *chivalric order* attaching itself during the last century to the masonic fraternity with which it still continues to be allied.

It has been lately strongly advocated by a section of the masonic press that a system of rites be established, making it *compulsory to obtain several degrees in rotation before receiving that of the Temple*, and that the Degrees called "Royal and Select Masters" lately introduced into Canada be preliminary to the Temple. While I myself and many of my Grand officers are members of these rites, and uphold their principles, for me to assent to such a proceeding would be a direct violation of the *statutes of* and renunciation of my *allegiance* to the Grand Conclave of England.

You are all aware that I obtained some years ago authority to communicate the Degree of the *United States "Red Cross,"* or "*Babylonish Pass,*" to Canadian Templars, for the purpose of Preventing any difficulty in visiting the United States Encampments, where this degree is a *pass to their Templar system* but is not compulsory with us, nor do I think it would be of any advantage to graft it in our purely Christian Order. This Degree is now in placed under control of and given in Councils of Select and Royal Masters.

The revival lately of several obsolete degrees and orders in England, has unfortunately given rise to much controversy and unpleasant correspondence, and it is greatly to be regretted the pure system of English Freemasonry should be disturbed by so many Grand Bodies springing up and wishing to imitate what are really incongruities in the American system.

With reference to the Order called the "*Red Cross of Constantine*" there appears to be some misunderstanding, probably from a similarity of names and titles with other orders and degrees. I can state that the Constantinian Order (founded on the legend of the vision of Constantine the Great), is purely Christian, and that the first grade, or, "*Novitiate Cross*" is the same as that long established under the control of the Scottish Knight Templar Encampments, the 2nd and 3rd grades, namely: those of "*Viceroy*" and "*Sovereign*" are the installation ceremonies of the two principal officers, added at the revival and revision of the ritual in England. I can find nothing objectionable or that it interferes in any way with other existing orders and degrees.

It is with much pain that I have to announce to Grand Priory that I was under the necessity of suspending the warrant of "*The Richard Cœur de Lion*" Encampment, of London, Province of Ontario. For upwards of twelve months a party feeling had sprung up in the Encampment quite at variance with the teachings and principles of the Order, disputes and recriminations took place relating principally to the election of an Eminent Commander. On carefully investigating the matter I considered it my duty to suspend the warrant and close the Encampment. The Past Eminent Commander at once complied with the demand to surrender the warrant to the Dominion Grand Chancellor, stating that the Registrar of the Encampment, Frater Thomas McMullen, who was the Eminent Commander elect—and with whom and the other officers the disagreement originated, refused to deliver up the minute and cash books. I directed the Grand Chancellor to apply to him direct. This application, although sufficient time had been allowed, was not attended to, when I caused another to be made, pointing out the great impropriety of his conduct, and that it rendered him liable to the penalty of suspension. This frater persisting in his contumacious conduct, violating his vows to the Order and the duty he owed to his superiors, I have suspended from all the privileges of a Knight Templar and reported the circumstances to the Supreme Grand Conclave of England. It has been a source of great regret to me, to be called upon thus to exercise my authority, being the first case of direct insubordination to constituted authority which has come to my knowledge since the introduction of the orders into Canada under English rule.

I must again draw the attention of Eminent Commanders to the necessity of greater care being observed in the admittance of candidates to our ranks; they are bound