

# THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN,

AND

## MASONIC RECORD.

J. B. TRAYNE, P.D.D.G.M.,  
Editor & Proprietor.

"The Queen and the Craft."

{ \$1.00 per annum  
in advance.

Vol. XX.

PORT HOPE, ONT., AUGUST 15, 1886.

No. 8.

### SOVEREIGN GREAT PRIORY OF CANADA.

The Third Annual Assembly of the Sovereign Great Priory Knights Templar of Canada, took place in the Masonic Hall, Windsor, on 13th July.

In our last issue we give the Allocution of M. E. Sir Knight Wm. J. B. McLeod Moore, G. C. T., Supreme Grand Master, in full, as we consider it a valuable document in the present state of Templarism in the Dominion. The Allocution was referred to the Grand Council, which reported as follows:—

FRATRES,—The Sovereign Great Priory of Canada is an acknowledged lawful independent governing body, which claims to its fullest extent its title as "Sovereign," and as such, the action taken respecting the Scottish Encampments in New Brunswick, is only what its high position fully justifies.

This Council, therefore, heartily approves of the remarks of the Supreme Grand Master, "That the course pursued by the Sovereign Great Priory has been the wisest." It must be expected, however, that any course of action, even when adopted after mature deliberation, will not meet, beyond the Dominion of Canada, with unanimous approval. The doctrine of exclusive jurisdiction which is accepted by all governing Masonic bodies on this continent, must, if acted on at all, be acted on fully and

freely. The Sovereign Great Priory accepts that doctrine in its unrestricted sense. The Grand Council are, however, inclined to believe that sectional feelings and prejudices exist, which having previously disturbed the Templar harmony in New Brunswick, were at the outset an hindrance to the Great Priory carrying out amicably its objects in that Province, and continue to prevent that kindly adjustment of differences which the Sovereign Great Priory would approach in a proper spirit. The Grand Council believe that the time will soon arrive when on all sides will be hailed with kindly emotions, the silver lining which is undoubtedly behind the present cloud.

The history of the Templar Order, so far as relates to its connection with Freemasonry, is admitted as being shrouded with such uncertainty, that even the best historians on the subject, and among whom may be well reckoned our Supreme Grand Master, feel compelled to rear a superstructure, pleasing no doubt, but not able to bear strict historic tests. But our Supreme Grand Master has shown such diligent and profound research, that he has removed from the history of our Order many of the doubts which have enshrouded it. As Templars it is wiser for us to depend on our own actions for what we profess to be, than merely live on the renown of our predecessors, heightened by traditional coloring.