

fully explained in the statement published on the 20th January last. Vide Appendix (A).

But I cannot help thinking, that had a little more time been taken for consideration, and less eagerness shown to precipitate matters, in the anxiety and determination for *immediate* independence, much of the present difficulty might have been avoided. It has been asserted, that if the suggestions of the Chairman of the Committee on the independent movement, Fra. † John H. Graham, (the able and experienced ex-Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec), had been adopted, they could not have arisen, who had laid before his committee two propositions, in which he pointed out, 1st—That after consent of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, should be obtained for our entire separation from Convent General, &c., that a Provincial Priory should be formed in each Province of the Dominion, and that duly authorized Representatives from such, should assemble and duly form the "National Great Priory" for Canada. Or, 2nd—That if independent Provincial Priors were not advisable, that all the Preceptories in the Dominion be invited to send to a convention held therefor, duly accredited Representatives to form a Great Priory for the Dominion, as before. Either of these would have been wholly regular, and it is believed, would have commanded assent and support of all at home and abroad, because the action would then have accorded with regular procedure in Craft Masonry in organizing governing bodies. (2) But the Grand Council and Fratres thought otherwise, and that it would be more advisable to secure independence first for the National Great Priory, and then regulate minor details, never supposing there could arise any difficulty with the two Scottish Encampments of New Brunswick, who had allowed it to be understood that when independence was obtained, they would give the matter favorable consideration. The course pursued appears to have been the wisest, as it united all the Preceptories in the different Provinces, with the one exception; whereas, had Provincial Priors been first formed instead of a Sovereign Great Priory, each Province might have declared itself separate and independent, and thus destroy the whole object and aim of a Sovereign Nationality.

My own opinion is strongly in favor of establishing Provincial Priors in Quebec,

(2) The jurisprudence of Craft Masonry is applicable to the Templar System, it being generally held as an axiom, that the jurisprudence of all regular "allied" Grand Bodies, be formed and governed according to the Constitutions of Freemasonry.

Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, &c., when a sufficient number of Preceptories have been organized in each—three at least—and the members prepared to form the Provincial bodies, who should send duly appointed representatives to Great Priory acknowledging fealty to the Sovereign body; this would leave the Provinces of the Dominion in the same position as we ourselves were formerly to England, and still be a united body of Templars in Canada. I am satisfied that more interest would be taken in working and disseminating our Templar system, if this plan was adopted; of course at the commencement it would have to be greatly modified as to their independent action, and continue to remit fees and make returns to "The Chancery" as at present.

The Province of New Brunswick, having with the Scottish Encampments the legal number of Preceptories, I would suggest that Great Priory, under all circumstances, should at once give the subject mature and deliberate consideration, of making this proposition to the New Brunswick Scottish body, to establish an independent Provincial Priory, and thus if possible harmoniously end a controversy so foreign and out of character to the principles of the Christian Order which we represent, and in the words of a great statesman, prove "That concession of local government is not the way to sap and impair, but to strengthen and consolidate unity."

#### NEW PRECEPTORIES.

During the year I have granted dispensations for opening Preceptories at Truro, Nova Scotia, named "Malta," dated 1st December, 1885; "Metropolitan" Preceptory, at Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, dated 1st May, 1886, and recommend that Warrants be granted them. This last Preceptory being within unoccupied territory in the British Empire, the petitioners could by right and custom apply to whatever Grand Governing Body they chose for a Warrant.

#### THE REVISED STATUTES.

We are indebted to the zeal and energy of our Grand Chancellor for the Revised Statutes being issued, and the various duties required of Preceptors and members in Canada clearly laid before them. Although, from some few omissions and printers' errors, it will be necessary to issue a short agenda.

It will be seen in the introduction to the Statutes, that the copy of an old Templar Canadian Warrant has been inserted, brought to light by the praiseworthy researches of Past Provincial Grand Prior, † J. Ross Robertson, of Toronto, which proves that the Templar degrees were long known in Canada. It may be interesting