

Grand Conclave of England and Wales; and we endeavoured in 1870, by an exchange of representatives between some of their Commanderies and our late Grand Priory to establish more friendly relations, but subsequently the Grand Encampment of the United States objected to their subordinates entering into any Foreign relations, and since we became an independent national body declined the same courtesy between us and themselves. The Grand Encampment having displayed so much anxiety to assert superiority over the Great Priory of Canada, we must presume the inconsistency of their continuing the Provincial Prior of Eastern Ontario, and the Eminent Knight Dr. Creigh, of Washington, Pennsylvania, as representatives between themselves and the Great Priory of England is an oversight, all the Great Priories being co-equal in every respect.

Last August I had the pleasure of meeting the United States Templar Commandery, the "Trinity," of Manchester, New Hampshire, who had made an excursion to the city of Montreal, and was highly gratified at being publicly received and honoured by a military salute. I was much impressed on seeing the United States Templars as a body for the first time in their quaint, unique, and becoming costume, wearing the black sash edged with silver lace and other badges of the "Kadosh," so well adapted to their semi-military organization and appropriate to their Masonic origin; but I am more satisfied than ever it would not be a suitable costume for us, who adhere to mediæval Templar usages; besides public processions, in which military display seems to constitute the greatness of the Order, would not be advisable or indeed practicable. And whatever the practices of the United States may be, they form no rule for the British branches of the Order. Appearing in public with Templar or Masonic emblems of any kind is opposed to our customs and long established usages, and contrary to the wish of our Royal Grand Master.

#### LEGISLATION.

I would now beg to call your attention to several important points that it will be necessary for you to discuss and decide upon, some of them appear on the Agenda paper, and others will be more fully explained by the report of the G. Sub-Prior † Fra. Samuel B. Harman. I may here premise that to him we have been indebted, since the death of our lamented Brother Harris in 1874, for assisting me to establish the true principles of the Order, and working out what has led to our possessing the position and status of the National Great Priory of Canada. He undertook the task of the preparation of the statutes by the adoption and re-modelling of those of England. The forms and returns, and the correspondence with England respecting accounts and certificates, and preparing the proceedings, which in a great measure had to be almost originally compiled, as from the part he had taken in the work, he did not wish to throw upon a new Chancery the completion of the intricate details he had himself commenced, but which entailed upon him unceasing labour, and were a serious tax upon his professional time and duties. It is therefore only right that I should thus acknowledge the obligations we are all under to his untiring perseverance and labour of love, and I am satisfied any suggestions he may make for the benefit of the Order will receive due attention and consideration at your hands.