

To insure therefore, their success in the Dominion it is necessary that modifications be made in the statutes and rules, as regards Canada, both in respect to fees and qualifications for admission of candidates. The late announcement by the Grand Vice Chancellor of increasing the fees, henceforth payable by Encampments to the funds of the Grand Conclave, is regarded as an unnecessary tax adopted without consulting the wishes or interests of Canadian Templars, a body now firmly established and daily increasing in numbers and importance, whose rapid growth has not been sufficiently considered by the parent order. Before any decisive step is taken, let me beg of you to ponder well the consequences, and the advisability of drawing up a statement to be laid before the Grand Master and Grand Conclave of England, of such requirements as it may be considered necessary to insure the future prosperity of the Canadian branch of the Order, if this course is pursued in a proper and respectful manner, as becomes a subordinate body addressing their supreme governing power, I feel satisfied that every concession consistent with the dignity of the supreme Grand Conclave will be granted.

Individually I most distinctly disapprove of any attempt at separation and cannot in any way lend myself to the movement, in my opinion the very *prestige* of the Order in Canada would be lost. The Grand Conclave of England has lately entered into a convention with the ruling powers of the Templars in Scotland and Ireland, and are now engaged in drawing up such rules and regulations, and carefully revising the ritual as will insure uniformity—conforming as much as modern changes will admit to ancient usage and custom. With such views, &c., taking into account that the early Templars, who were derived from almost all the nations of Europe, had but one Grand Master, one governing head, and although excepting by adoption, we claim no such antiquity, yet by analogy we should endeavour to follow the ancient statute.

Our vows of allegiance to the Grand Conclave, our feelings of loyalty to the British crown, and where is it more strongly developed than in Canada, and honored as our Order now is, by numbering amongst its members in England, the heir to the throne, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, surely ought to cement more closely our adherence to the supreme Grand Conclave of England. I cannot see what end is to be gained by separation, excepting to those ambitious of empty titles and the glittering paraphernalia of office. If no higher ground is taken than that of expediency, surely it would be unwise to sever a connexion which while it continues, reflects the highest honor on all its members, and entitles us to the fullest participation in the benefits of the exertions now making in England to place the order on its proudest and most perfect basis. I am well informed that amongst many of our Frateres of the United States, uniformity of ritual and regulations as contemplated