

Jerusalem, their migration to the Island of Rhodes, and subsequent retirement to the Island of Malta. This order gave the first idea of Hospitals in England where they were called Stranger Houses, and afforded shelter to the weary traveller, as well as to the sick. The original noble and praiseworthy object of ministering to the wants of the destitute for which the order was founded, (although they afterwards became a Military and Canonical order like the Templars) is literally carried out at the present time in London by the sixth or English Langue of the legitimate branch of the old order of St. John of Jerusalem. I may mention the name of one of its members a Knight of Justice, who is an honorary Grand Officer of this Grand Priory, Sir Knight Richard Woof, of St. Amand Preceptory, in the ancient city of Worcester, of which Preceptory I have lately been highly gratified by being elected an honorary member.

I announced to you in my circular, that the committee appointed by me at the meeting of Grand Priory in 1870, "to deliberate upon such questions and proposals as may tend to promote the interests of the order in Canada, and that the result of these deliberations be embodied in a respectful memorial, to be submitted to the Supreme Grand Conclave" had forwarded their memorial (marked B in appendix) already communicated to our different Preceptories, which I duly enclosed without comment or alteration to the Arch Chancellor in England, and received an official reply (also attached, marked C) assuring me that the claims put forward will be taken into favorable consideration at the next meeting of the Convent General, this I consider most satisfactory.

The re-organization of the order, at once pointed out the way to gratify the long expressed wish of the majority of Canadian Templars for self government without severing the connection with the parent body (which I could not have assented to.) The time appears to have arrived when we ought to have our own affairs more immediately under our own control. We understand our wants and wishes much better than can be done at a distance, and on many matters it is necessary to legislate differently. Edicts and Regulations which are neither approved of or necessary here are viewed in the mother land by a very different light; with her old associations, her aristocracy, and her great social distinctions, a more marked impetus is given and required.

The Dominion of Canada forming a portion of the great British Empire, should not be called a dependency, it is just as much an integral part of the Queen's sovereignty as England, Scotland and Ireland, and which have much the same privileges. Canada is no longer a colony in the common sense of the word, and her influence is on the daily increase.

With the Templars in the neighbouring enlightened and great republic, the fraternal feeling existing between us, continues to increase, and a convention is now under treaty with them and England similar to that effected by the latter with Scotland and Ireland. H. R. Highness the Grand Master, to mark his approbation of these amicable and harmonious relations, has paid a graceful compliment to the General Grand Encampment, by creating their Grand Master Sir Knight John Q. Adams Fellows, a Grand Cross of the order of England.

The Templars in Sweden, of whom His Majesty the King is Grand Master, show the same anxiety to reciprocate fraternal relations. This Order, which is based similarly to our own on the Masonic system, is recognized by the State and Court. The Emperor of Germany and other Continental Royal Personages are members of the order and