

withheld the issue of the Dispensation, although fully approving of it, for further consideration until the meeting of Great Priory. I do not myself see any valid grounds why a warrant should not be issued. It is only reasonable to suppose that Royal Arch Companions would prefer joining the Order of the Temple, nearer their own homes, than to be obliged to attend meetings at a distance, and as they have successfully maintained a lodge and chapter they may with every prospect of success hope to do so with a Preceptory.

PROVINCIAL PRIORS AND PRECEPTORS.

I must again remind "Provincial Priors" of the importance of their duties and the necessity of a constant supervision over the Preceptories of their Districts. I would refer them to the able report last year of the Chairman of the Committee on the condition of the Order of the Temple in Canada, which so clearly points out what is *most required* of them, and how necessary it is to ascertain that the Preceptors of their Districts fully comply with the Statutes and are conversant with the AUTHORIZED ritual, and not permit any deviation therefrom or innovations of any kind whatever, it being too much the wish and practice to copy and adopt from other systems, what are supposed to be improvements, but which in reality detract from the usefulness and uniformity of both—all forms and returns are to be strictly in conformity with the Rules laid down in the Statutes, and the attention of

PRESIDING-PRECEPTORS

is to be particularly drawn to the clauses under the head "Instructions" pages seventy-five to seventy-eight of the Statutes, and Frates whose names are dropped from the roll of Preceptories for "non-payment" of dues must be properly notified and suspended, in accordance with the Statutes 77-78 and 79.

Presiding-Preceptors appear to think that there is nothing to engage their attention of sufficient interest, unless the ceremony of a "reception" is to take place at the regular meetings of the Chapters, and that their work only consists in the installation of aspirants. A Preceptor who acts up to the professions he has taken upon himself, has much, very much, more to do, when no particular business is before his Preceptory. The explanation of the symbolic teachings of the Order in its beautiful Liturgy, and exemplification of the different parts of

the ceremonial, will sufficiently occupy his time to his own edification and that of the members of his Preceptory.

In October last, I had the pleasure of paying an official visit to Richard Courde Lion Preceptory, of Montreal, accompanied by the Provincial Prior, Frater I. H. Stearns, K. C. T., and was much gratified at the reception I received from the Presiding-Preceptor, Frater † W. Le Messurier and the assembled brethren of this the oldest Preceptory in the Province of Quebec—who did everything in their power to make it a most enjoyable reunion long to be remembered. I have on several occasions of late visited the Gondemar Preceptory, of Brockville, Ont., and at my last visit installed the Presiding-Preceptor, Frater † Wm. Fitzsimmons. This Preceptory has had many difficulties to contend with since its removal from Maitland, Ont., but there is now every prospect of its regaining its former activity and prosperity.

I have been anxious to visit frequently the Preceptories of the Dominion, but my failing health of late has prevented my doing so, and I had to delegate that pleasure to the Provincial Priors,—to whom the duty properly belongs.

OBITUARY.

With but one exception, no reports have been sent to me that the "King of Terrors" had visited the obedience of this Sovereign Great Priory since our last annual conclave; in this instance, we have to mourn the death of Frater † Joshua G. Burns, of Toronto, which took place there, on the 28th May last, in the forty-fourth year of his age, of that dread scourge consumption. Our Brother was of Irish birth, and had served in the United States army as an officer in the late rebellion; he was a Past Grand "Vice Chancellor" of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, a zealous and worthy brother, much esteemed and loved, and will long be remembered in the hearts of those who knew him well. I would also wish to pay the last sad tribute of respect to the memory of a highly respected Templar brother of our sister jurisdiction in the United States,—Frater † Theodore T. Curney, of Illinois—who at our last Grand Conclave visited the Great Priory of Canada. I shall ever retain the most kindly recollections of pleasing correspondence with him on Templar matters, and was much impressed with his high Masonic principles and views. A communication has been also