

so created a regular schism—one district of England against the other.

The democratic party in England, which outweighed all the others in "Convent General," being one that cared nothing for the sister Great Priors of Ireland and Canada, it was evident a disruption must take place, and this was brought to an issue, when a special Convent General met in London, to review and set aside the decisions of the regular meeting of the Convent General held in Dublin the year before. The English Brethren, who long used to rule matters with supreme authority in England, could not endure that the Irish should have any share in the administration, reversed the decision made in the Dublin Convent General.

The Irish members felt themselves aggrieved, but behaved with equal forbearance and spirit, quietly laid aside the Convent General altogether, and just took their own way as before. There is no doubt the whole of the proceedings of this special meeting were illegal, and ought to have been vetoed, as by section three of the Anglo-Hibernian Convention, any constitutional alterations should be made in the several Great Priors before being submitted to Convent General.

The Statutes undoubtedly contain a provision for altering them, and advantage was taken of this by the stronger party.

Canada, feeling that she had no chance of holding her own in Convent General, strongly protested against these acts, expressing her disapproval of any material changes in rules she had promised to obey; for as a National Great Priory, she had an equal voice with the others, and no faction or party had a right to pass, without due notice, and behind her back, a series of resolutions of which she disapproved.

In this state of affairs no other course seemed left but that of dissolution of the Union, but rather than proceed to this extremity, and for the sake of peace, the Great Priory of Canada agreed to a compromise, suggested by the Great Sub-Priory of England, by which we are now left to take care of ourselves, and are certainly the gainers, so far as the abolition of the capitation tax to Convent General, which in Canada had always been looked upon as a very unnecessary one to impose upon us; but, it is to be feared the result of the compromise will be to establish three separate systems, which in time will become more and more dissimilar, and thus defeat the object of the Union.