

At the commencement of last September, I forwarded the application to the Arch-Chancellor of Convent General, to be laid before H. R. H., and it was not until a few months later that I learned it had never reached him, having been lost when he was on a visit to the Continent of Europe. My second letter, of the 21st December, also met with some delay, from circumstances unnecessary now to refer to. I can only remark, that the satisfactory and pleasing reply makes full amends for the delay, which caused us all much anxiety.

As you had determined to assume complete independence, the pleasure is enhanced by the honorable course pursued in obtaining it. No doubt the result of your expressed wishes would have been the same, but a less honorable and uncourteous course of proceeding, would, be assured, have left its sting behind. As a supreme and governing body, we can now look back with pride to our parentage, and the honorable position we held under the rule of one who, for many years, was pleased to be our Grand Master, and who, I trust, will still honor us by becoming the patron of this Great Priory, and regard the Canadian branch of the Order with his princely favor.

I do not hesitate to say that I never could see the necessity for wishing to be absolved from our allegiance to H. R. Highness as Supreme Grand Master of the Order. He never assumed control over, or interfered with the independent position sought for by the nationalities; so that, in the most minute affairs of government, it could not be said that the National Great Priory of Canada had been coerced by any outside governing authority, and to all intents and purposes was perfectly independent; it being understood that it was not necessary to consult H. R. Highness in the local government of the Order; therefore, our relations under his supreme authority were only technically objectionable as regards entire independence. At the same time, it created so many doubts in the minds of our sister jurisdiction of the United States of America, that when your committee recommended an humble petition to be forwarded, asking to be absolved from our vows of fealty, I felt that the time had arrived, and putting aside my own personal feelings, agreed for the good of the Order in Canada, to recommend the prayer of the petition; but I certainly, in the first instance, was not prepared for the final decision of Great Priory to declare independence, and then ask to be absolved. However, the magnanimous action of H. R. Highness in so readily acceding to the request of Great Priory removed all difficulties, and is only in accord with his generous and princely character.

I am pained to find that most unfair and false motives have