

The Canadian Craftsman.

Port Hope, July 15, 1888.

GREAT PRIORY AND INDEPENDENCE.

The recent assembly of the Great Priory at Ottawa, was probably the most important that has been held in the Dominion for years. The address of the Great Prior was learned and able as usual, and the cheerful, ready, prompt, and manly manner in which he yielded to the wishes of the Canadian Frates with regard to independence will long be remembered. This question of Independence, which at one time threatened to actually cause a disruption of Great Priory, was settled amicably and unanimously.

Now, we do not wish to extol one Sir Knight to the detriment of another, but in this instance it will not be unbecoming on our part to give due praise to the Great Chancellor, R. E. Sir Knight Daniel Spry, who, through good report and evil report, has been the unflinching advocate of a peaceful and harmonious separation from England. This, after years of labor and strenuous opposition, he has accomplished without an opposing vote and with the consent of the Great Prior, Col. W. J. B. MacLeod Moore.

That this movement will give an impetus to Templary in this country we do not doubt. Up to this period there has been a feeling of uneasiness, uncertainty, and dependence, which to a great extent militated against the welfare of the Order; now, however, we can turn to our Great Chancellor and thank him for the

courteous and fraternal spirit he displayed towards his adversaries, and congratulate him in winning over by reason and argument those who were, at one time, bitterly opposed to the movement.

The independence of Great Priory does not prove that the Templars of this country love England less, but it illustrates the fact,—they love Canada more. They desire to conduct every branch of Masonry in this Dominion on a separate and independent basis, and this cutting of the Gordian knot does not mean or signify in the least any disloyalty to our future king, H. R. H. the Prince of Wales. The following is an outline of the address to the Great Prior upon the subject:—

GREAT PRIORY OF CANADA.

To the M. E. the Great Prior:

The special committee appointed at the last annual assembly of the National Great Priory, for the purpose of taking into consideration the question of the independence of the National Great Priory of Canada, beg leave courteously and unanimously to report that, with the consent and acquiescence of the M. E. the Great Prior, they recommend Great Priory to request and authorize the M. E. the Great Prior to prepare and forward to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, the Supreme Grand Master of Convent General, an humble address, praying: Inasmuch as the Great Priory has this day unanimously declared in the revision of the Statutes its authority in and throughout the Dominion of Canada over all bodies of the Order of the Temple and appendant Degrees, and your committee recommend that the M. E. the Great Prior do address His Royal Highness the Grand Master that he will be graciously pleased to absolve this Great Priory and all Officers and Frates members thereof, from their obligations of fealty to him as Supreme Grand Master, so that this Great Priory may be enabled fully and without doubt to affirm and maintain the position which it has taken upon itself as an independent Great Priory of the Order of Knights Templar and appendant Degrees, at the same time gratefully expressing our knightly obligations to His Royal Highness and to Convent General, for all the courtesies and favors which we, as members and officers of the Order of the Temple in the Dominion of Canada,