

A., a prominent clergyman of the Church of England, a Deputy Grand Commander of the former Provincial Grand Conclave of the Templars in Canada.

Our late father and friend, † Dr. Ramsay, was admitted to the Templars Degree in the "Orient" Commandery of Cleveland, Ohio, United States of America, in 1868, and on his return to Canada, established the "Mount Calvary" Preceptory in 1870, at Orillia, Province of Ontario, having transferred his allegiance to the Grand Conclave of England and Wales, subsequently obtaining the rank of a Past Grand Captain of that jurisdiction; and at the assembly of the Great Priory of Canada in 1883, he was appointed, from my recommendation, in consideration of his services, both through the Masonic press and otherwise, and being satisfied in my own mind, that he fully believed in the truths of the doctrines contained in the English system of Templary, to the distinguished position of a "KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE TEMPLE," one of the much coveted decorations granted to Canada by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales.

His numerous Masonic honors, prove how much he was appreciated in the different degrees he was in possession of. To me, his memory will ever bring to mind but kindly thoughts and feelings. Who is without failings? I can only think of his many good deeds and qualities, and his invariable kind and considerate feelings towards myself.

"Death is the crown of life.  
Were death the end? good men  
Would live in vain.  
Were death the end? to live  
Would not be life.  
Were death the end? even fools would  
Wish to die."

Great Priory will no doubt see fit to insert in the Proceedings a tablet to the memory of our late Brother. Although I have not been made acquainted with the death of other members of our Fraternity, we may be certain the fell destroyer has been busy elsewhere; let us then tender our sympathy to sorrowing friends and relatives.

#### THE EDICT.

I regret to say that the Edict of non-intercourse with the Scottish Templars of New Brunswick is still in force. The existence of Scottish Encampments in the Dominion has always been to me a matter of indifference, whether they remained an isolated body or amalgamated with the English jurisdiction, and none can deplore more than I do the necessity that Great Priory felt of issuing the Edict, the principle of doing so being at variance with the usages of Masonic law in England, by

which, until of late, in Templar matters we have been guided, viz:—"That a Grand Body, by its mere creation, cannot invalidate Subordinate Bodies already existing in the territory over which it assumes jurisdiction."

Great Priory, however, on declaring Sovereign authority in Canada, adopted the "American System" of exclusive jurisdiction, for governing Masonic powers, which was also established by the United States Templars as a fundamental principle. Such being the law of unanimity on this continent, it appeared to me incumbent, and a duty to the "whole Order," on the part of the Scottish Encampments of New Brunswick, to join this Great Priory, after its separation from "Convent General," being then an acknowledged, lawfully independent governing power of the Dominion. Although there is now no Grand Master for the whole Order of every nationality, as in ancient days, every country claims, and it is generally acceded to them, to have Grand Masters or Great Priors supreme in their own jurisdiction. There cannot be the slightest doubt, that the "Chapter General of Scotland" would have released them from their allegiance, as readily as H. R. H. the Prince of Wales had done with us, if they chose to ask for it, but it would seem, that at all hazards, they are determined to remain separate and isolated, by throwing obstacles in the way of any amalgamation. The onus must therefore rest upon themselves. (1)

This is but a repetition of the old, much to be regretted, unwise, and unnecessarily provoked quarrel, by the Grand Lodge of Scotland with that of Quebec. It is essential for Masonic peace and unity, that one Masonic power shall not create subordinates, or continue to exercise authority over such as do exist, occupied by another independent co-equal power. Even if the naked right existed, there is ample considerations that forbid its exercise. This, I think, is now the settled Masonic law, and alike applicable to the Templar system. Great Priory bearing all this in mind, felt it incumbent at the very outset to assert their supremacy, and at once put down any attempt at innovation of their rights, by issuing an edict of non-intercourse with all foreign Templar bodies in the Dominion;

(1) The statement of objections set forth by the Scottish Templars of New Brunswick, of the 2nd July, 1885, was not for a considerable time afterwards known to the members of Great Priory, a copy having been refused the Grand Chancellor after it had been printed and circulated in the "United States," and amongst their own adherents for some time, who were required not to make it public.