

From an address recently delivered to the Sir Knights assembled at Kingston, Ontario by the Very Eminent Sir Knight Colonel W. J. B. MacLeod Moore, Grand Prior to the Dominion of Canada, the impression seemed to prevail that the time had arrived when the Order of Masonic Knights Templar, in this part of the world ought to have their own affairs more immediately under their control, their wants and wishes being better understood at home than at a distance. Edicts and regulations which are neither approved of nor necessary on this side of the water, are viewed in the mother land in a very different light, with her old associations, her aristocracy, and her social distinctions.

The Dominion of Canada now forms a portion of the Great British Empire, and should nor be called a dependency. Canada is no longer a colony in the common sense of the word, and her influence is on the increase.

The question of controlling the order within the Dominion has been made the subject of a memorial to the Supreme Grand Conclave of England, and the matter will, doubtless, be taken into favorable consideration at the next meeting of the Convent General in London, when it is to be hoped that the long expressed wish of the majority of Canadian Templar Masons for self-governing, without severing the connection with the parent body, will be gratified.

PRESENTATION TO W. BRO. R. C. HAMILTON.—The old Masonic Lodge room at Halifax, N. S., was filled with a goodly company of the mystic craft. on the evening of the 25th Nov. last, to witness a very pleasing ceremony, the occasion being the presentation by the members of St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 1, R. N. S., to W. Bro. R. C. Hamilton, of an address and an elegantly finished Album containing the photographs of the lodge members. For several years Bro. Hamilton has taken a very warm interest in Masonic affairs, particularly those of St. Andrew's Lodge, with which he had identified himself, and for whose well-being he labored with unremitting zeal. For two successive years he filled the Master's chair, with what success those who sat in the Lodge with him well know; and at the last Grand Lodge meeting was elected to the important position in that body of Grand Lecturer. Circumstances which have called forth very wide-spread and warm-hearted sympathy, necessitate his leaving Halifax, and last evening his brother Masons met, where they had so often met before together, to say good-bye, and bid him God-speed. The severance of old ties and familiar associations were not without a manifestation of feeling, and as the membership grouped around in one undivided chain, their hands doubly linked in friendship and brotherhood, and the old time-honored walls echoed back the fervent strains of "Auld Lang Syne," many an eye was big with tears, and many a heart felt what the tongue could not express. Speeches were made by several visiting brethren, in all of which the most kindly mention of Bro. Hamilton was made, and all of whom expressed their great regret at parting with one whom they had ever known but to respect. The address was very handsomely engrossed on parchment by Mr. Whiston of the Commercial College, and the album, which is the most elegant we have ever seen, had the following inscription on a massive gold shield, set into the cover: "St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 1, R. N. S., to P. M. Bro. R. C. Hamilton, Nov. 25, 1873." Bro. Hamilton made a very feeling and suitable reply to the address, speaking extemporaneously. He alluded to his years of service in the Lodge, and of the kindly mention made of himself in connection with these services. He felt that he was unworthy of much that had been said of him, for he had been prompted only by a sense of duty, and others had worked side by side with him, and with him borne equally the heat and burden of the day. When upon vacating the Master's chair after two years of service, he was presented with the elegant jewel which then adorned his breast, he felt that he had been more than repaid by this mark of esteem; but when he stood there to-night the recipient of such a flattering address, and such a handsome testimonial as these which had just been crowded upon him, his full heart could give no utterance to his feelings; words were too weak, they were unknown. Bro. Hamilton then spoke of the many firm friendships he had made during his sojourn in Halifax, years among the happiest of his life, and which he could never forget. He regretted exceedingly that circumstances which he could not control made it necessary for him to leave a spot around which clustered so many happy associations, and his heart were of strange mould did it keep no cherished print of these earlier, happier times. For Mrs. Hamilton and himself he thanked them all for the wealth of words of kindly sympathy which had been spoken, and the many fond wishes which had been breathed for their future well-being. He who had not known ill-fortune never knew himself or his own virtue, and like

"The willow eke that stoopeth with the wind
Doth rise again and greater wood doth bind,"

so shall the sun of our prosperity once more rise, and shine with undiminished splendor