

### KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF CANADA.

At the annual meeting of Knights Templar of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, on the 12th July, at Brockville, Ontario, the Great Priory passed a resolution not to recall the warrant issued by them to establish a Preceptory of the Order in Melbourne, Australia, demanded by the National Great Priory of England, as an unjustifiable invasion of the jurisdiction of the Great Priory of England, who claim authority over all the colonies of the empire, until such time as independent national orders are formed.

When this decision was announced the Supreme Grand Master, Col. Macleod Moore, rose and said:—Although not unprepared for your decision, which was to some extent foreshadowed by your refusal to accept the more moderate course suggested to you at the special meeting of Great Priory in February last, I must deplore such action as will probably entail non-intercourse with England (as perhaps but one of its lesser evils), followed, as it will be, by dis-union and other vital consequences naturally resulting from a violent rupture with the parent body—feeling very acutely that the knowledge that my own too ready trustfulness was the immediate cause of this unhappy complication, I have carefully refrained in my Allocution from any attempt to bias or influence your body, remaining as far as possible neutral, as with my often avowed sentiments and feelings, I could not in this matter be with you, I would not be against you. My bounden duty to the Templars of Canada, with and for whom I have worked for the long period of 33 years, and the high status of the Order which is so dear to me, demanded of me such restraint as should in no de-

gree imperil its possible future, and I made the honour and dignity of the Great Priory of Canada the most important consideration, but I still hope that an amicable arrangement is possible, with patience on our side and concession on that of the Great Priory of England, which has acted upon erroneous premises. The assertion that the Great Priory of Canada is simply a local body is an entirely mistaken one, and may in a degree explain the imperious action taken by the Great Priory of England. As your presiding officer, I never relaxed my efforts until Canada became an independent sovereign body, the peer of all the Great Templar bodies, co-equal with England and Ireland in the "Covent General," and owning no superior but H.R.H. the Grand Master. And if the concurrent jurisdiction *always* admitted in the Colonies by the Masonic body of England, for the purpose of enabling brethren from Scotland and Ireland to place themselves under their several nationalities, be conceded, until such time as a supreme body of the colony is established, this painful difficulty can be adjusted and harmony restored with no loss of dignity on the part of the Great Priory of England or that of Canada. I fully understand the feelings of the Canadian Templars, who, though profoundly loyal, do not partake of the sentiment which accompanies personal attachment to England and her institutions; but I feel deeply that internal disruption is to be strenuously avoided, and to break up the unity of Great Priory or change the Templar system we have inherited from the mother country would be to entirely destroy the fruits of my long and devoted labours, and some at least of your number can estimate the pain and regret, with which I regard such a possible result, and brother knights, the fealty to His Royal Highness, which I have so often pressed upon you, is with me an abiding sentiment to be preserved with jealous care at whatever sacrifice