

Prior; † Robert Marshall, Provincial Prior, New Brunswick; † Benjamin Curren, Provincial Prior, Nova Scotia, expressing regret that unavoidable circumstances prevented their attending at the Annual Assembly.

The most Eminent the Great Prior then read the following

ADDRESS:

FRATRES OF THE NATIONAL GREAT PRIORY OF CANADA,—I feel more than satisfied that the suggestion made by me and confirmed by your resolution at our last meeting of Great Priory of distinctly declaring our Independent position as a National body, and the Peer of all other Templar Institutions, was the correct course to pursue. The action taken by the Grand Encampment of the United States in arrogating to itself a pre-eminence over the ruling body in Canada, being an assumption on their part that required prompt refutation and explanation, to prevent its marring the kindly feelings existing between the two Templar branches; arising no doubt unintentionally from not understanding the wide difference that exists between their Templar system and that of the British Empire, or the relative position "Convent General" and "Grand Encampment" bear to each other.

It may be as well to explain our position as regards the Union with the Great Priories of England and Ireland, which led to the mistaken supposition of our not being an Independent body.

For some time previous to our joining the Union as a National body, a convention had existed between England and Ireland to establish a uniform Templar system, based upon the practices of the old Chivalric Order, and we came in, taking matters just as we found them.

UNION OF NATIONAL GREAT PRIORIES.

The Order had been but lately revised, through the instrumentality of Sir Patrick Colquhoun, the Chancellor of the English branch, and much irrelevant matter struck out, which had crept into its ceremonies from adhering too closely to the Masonic style of working of the 1780 theory—the Dunckerly fable. These changes, and the formation of a Convent General, were not received favorably by a large majority of the English body, being distasteful to the prejudices of many of the old members, who looked upon them as innovations, and