

† G. H. F. Dartnell, and † James K. Kerr, Past Provincial Priors, Ontario Centre; Hon. † Robert Marshall, Past Provincial Prior, and † S. F. Matthews, Grand Marshal, New Brunswick; † Benjamin Curren, Past Provincial Prior, and † James Dempster, Provincial Prior, Nova Scotia; † H. A. Mackay, Past Provincial Prior, Ontario West; † L. F. Darling, Past Provincial Prior, Nova Scotia; and † J. H. Graham, Past Grand Treasurer, expressing regret that unavoidable circumstances prevented their attendance at the Annual Assembly; and from the M. E. Sir Knight Hon. † R. E. Withers, Grand Master; and R. E. Sir Knight † Theo. T. Gurney, Chicago, conveying congratulations on securing the independence of Great Priory.

The Most Eminent the Great Prior then read the following

ADDRESS:

Fratres of the Canadian Branch of the United Orders of the Temple and Malta,—

In opening my "ALLOCUTION" of this year, I greet you with the welcome intelligence that your expressed wishes for the complete Independence of this National Great Priory have been fully realized.

In conformity with the power assigned to me, authorized by you at our last annual assembly, to act upon the recommendation and suggestions contained in the report adopted by Great Priory for the independence of this National Body, I duly forwarded, through the Arch-Chancellor of Convent General, the Honorable Judge Townshend, of the Admiralty Courts, Dublin, Ireland, to be laid before H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, as Supreme Grand Master of the Order, the prayer of your petition (Appendix A.) The Chancellor will read the reply commanded to be communicated to me. I feel satisfied that you will all agree with me that H. R. H. has ennobled himself, and intensified the loyalty we all feel towards him for his Knightly and truly gracious acknowledgment of our complete independence. The golden chain of union is not broken, but it is strengthened a thousand fold, and I look forward to a new era of prosperity for our grand old Order of the Temple.

I think it right to explain the cause of the delay in receiving the reply of H. R. Highness to my petition.