

of Canada "approved of the Degree being adopted by that Grand Council" as one of the Degrees to be conferred in Councils of Royal and Select Masters, in order that it might be placed "on a legitimate footing with other Canadian Degrees;" and on making it known to the Grand Encampment of the United States that he had done so, the subject was referred to by the Special Committee on "Foreign Affairs" at the Baltimore session, held in 1871. who reported that "they recognise the Knights of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross made in Canada under such authority as may be duly recognised there." On the formation of Grand Council in the same year, we gave subordinate Councils full authority to confer the Degree without obtaining any authority from the Grand Prior. as we were of the opinion that we were justified in doing so, as our Warrants were obtained from New Brunswick Grand Council. Subsequently, on my attention being directed to this omission, I addressed the Grand Prior officially, and in October, 1873, obtained his hearty approval of our proceedings. (For full correspondence see page 22 p. p. 1873.) The Degree by this action having been placed under the control of "an authorised body," I think we are now justified in asking the Great Priory of Canada to withdraw the authority given to Preceptors to communicate the Degrees on Knights Templar, and I strongly recommend Grand Council to enter into correspondence with the Great Prior with the view of securing this object.

At the last Annual assembly I was authorised and instructed "to take all necessary steps in connection with other bodies interested," to form the Grand Council of Rites for the Dominion of Canada. I have, however, to report that although the Grand Imperial Council of Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine, and the Grand Royal Ark Lodge, both adopted resolutions in approval of the proposed organization for various reasons; and after consulting several members of Grand Council, I did not feel that I would have been justified in complying with the terms of the resolution, and, I therefore, assumed the very great responsibility of disobeying your direct instructions; but I trust my course will meet with your approval, when I inform you, that there was some danger of the Grand Councils of the United States not understanding our action, refusing to recognize the proposed change, and the probability of some of them withdrawing their recognition. I decided, therefore, to take no further action until the present session, and if you are still of the opinion that it is desirable to form the Grand Council of Rites, a circular letter might be prepared and addressed to the Grand Councils with whom we are in fraternal correspondence, explaining the proposed change, and inviting their consideration and approval, and the continuance to the new body of the recognition that had been accorded to the Grand Council. Personally, I am of the same opinion as I was last year, when I said that "Grand Lodges, Grand Chapters, Grand Council of Rites, Great Priory and the Supreme Council of the 33rd Degree, would be quite sufficient governing power to control and direct the whole of Masonry, and meet all the requirements of the Craft" in Canada.

Grand Council having adopted the work of the New York Convention, I have caused it to be introduced into all subordinate Councils, and I am now able to report said work as being generally in use, and if the Inspectors General, in the course of their official visits, will only impress upon the Ill. Masters the necessity of teaching only the authorised Ritual, we shall soon have uniformity in the working of all the Councils.

Grand Council is aware that an organisation has been formed in London, under the name of the Grand Lodge of Ontario. Soon after the formation of this illegal and clandestine body in usurpation of the territory already masonically occupied by the Grand Lodge of Canada, I was asked to decide if the Ill. Masters of Councils were to continue to admit such of their members as had assisted in the formation of the so-called Grand Lodge. My decision was that as these Companions had violated their obligations without any justification whatever, the Ill. Masters were not to admit them under any circumstance whatever, and as those who took part in the formation of this Body have not the shadow of an excuse to offer, in extenuation of their unwarranted and unjustifiable rebellion, I have no hesitation in recommending Grand Council to expel from all the rights and privileges of Cryptic Masonry, all those against whom proof may be brought forward to shew that they took part in the movement.

Illustrious Companions, in concluding this my fifth Annual Address, permit me to thank you most heartily for your generous confidence and unswerving support. The kindly feeling that has been displayed at each Annual Assembly has led me to look forward to these fraternal gatherings with more than ordinary pleasure, and it is therefore with some regret that I have to ask you to select a successor to preside over your deliberations, as I feel the time has arrived when the Grand Master's Gavel should be placed in other hands. And may the H. O. O. I. guide, protect and bless you, and reward you for your earnest labors.

DANIEL SPRY,
Grand Master.

Toronto, 29th August, 1876.