

its executive head is the mere lieutenant or representative of a Grand Master who will not in all probability ever preside personally over its members, or take the least interest, except in a formal communication, regarding its local affairs. The other Masonic bodies of Canada, even the exclusive Scottish rite, have separated from the parent bodies of England, and yet their loyalty is not questioned. If it is all-important to have the heir apparent to the throne Grand Master of the Templar Order in Canada, it is equally important that he should occupy the same position in all the Masonic Orders. Yet what an outcry would be raised if either Col. Moffat or Dr. Graham were to suggest that he would be willing to act as pro-Grand Master under the Prince of Wales as Grand Master. Yet one is really as reasonable as the other. True, neither of these gentlemen has a patent: but one might easily be drawn out. The fact is this:—the Canadian Templar body, as a body, feel that the time has arrived for its members to throw aside their leading strings. Canadian Templars perceive that under the existing state of affairs they are really only in a *quasi-independent* position, and that view is confirmed by Great Priory exchanging Grand Representatives with subordinate organizations in the United States. When the governing body in Canada was only a Grand Priory under the Grand Conclave of England and Wales, it occupied exactly the same position towards that body that a State Commandery does towards the Grand Encampment of the United States, and consequently the exchange of Grand Representatives between State Commanderies and a Provincial

Priory was right; but when that body became a supreme body, it was *infra dignitate* to exchange with an inferior body,—it could only exchange with a sovereign body such as the Grand Encampment of the United States, the Great Priory of England, the Great Priory of Ireland, the Chapter General of Scotland, &c., &c.

We have thus at some length expressed our views upon the unfortunate position assumed by the Great Prior. We cannot believe he will persist in ignoring the wishes of the Canadian Templars. To do so would be a most suicidal policy. We readily admit a few Preceptors and a small portion of the Preceptories would acknowledge the Prince of Wales or the King of the Cannibal Islands, as Supreme Grand Master of the Order, if Col. Moore told them to do so, but the intelligent mass of the fraternity do not pin their faith upon bygone traditions, but intend to exercise their judgment on the live issues of the day. The Great Priory of Canada is either a sovereign body or it is not. The Templars of Canada have declared it a sovereign and independent body, and they intend to exercise their rights as such.

If Col. Moore supposes for an instant that the Canadian Fratres are disloyal because they desire perfect independence, he is greatly mistaken. They acknowledge their allegiance as Canadians to the Prince of Wales as heir apparent to the Throne, but as Templars they do not acknowledge any fealty to any Grand Master of a foreign jurisdiction. Col. Moore himself, as the Chief Templar, is, and always will be, we fancy, the first choice of the Templars of Canada. So long