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SOVEREIGN GREAT PRIORY OF CANADA.

OF THE UNITED RELIGIOUS AND MILITARY ORDERS OF THE TEMPLE, AND OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, PALESTINE, RHODES AND MALTA.

Allocution of the Supreme Grand Master, "United Orders of the Temple and Malta for the Dominion of Canada, read before the Sovereign Great Priory, at Windsor, Ontario, 13th July, 1886.

FRATRES,—I heartily greet you. Another year of our short existence on earth has come and gone, and by the mercy of the All Wise God, we have been spared to meet again at our annual convocation. Let us then, with due reverence and a deep sense of our unworthiness, acknowledge the many mercies we enjoy, and implore a blessing and guidance on the deliberations of our present assembly, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God, to whom belong all power and glory.

"In the past year we have been forcibly reminded of the frail tenor of our earthly existence, by the sudden death of two esteemed members. One of them, Fra. † Daniel Collins, who resided in my neighborhood at the Village of Maitland, had assisted at the formation of the 'Gondemar Preceptory,' of which he had at one time been Presiding Preceptor, died suddenly on the 15th Nov. last. A few minutes before his death, he had been superintending some repairs to the Anglican Church, of which he was a devoted member and trusted office-bearer. On leaving the building and proceeding along the road, he suddenly dropped down dead. Our late Brother, born on the 30th August, 1812, was at the battle of the "Wind Mill" at Prescott, in 1837, as an officer of the Incorporated Militia, and was one of the old residents in the Township of Augusta, living at the homestead taken up by his father, a U. E. Loyalist, of English descent, in 1774. He was an esteemed and respected member of the community. May he rest in peace.

The amiable, tall, burly form, and kindly face of another Brother who has passed away, will long be remembered and regret-

ted, for his kind and generous heart, ever ready to bring forward the claims of the widow and orphan, the destitute and distressed, that of Fra. † Dr. Robert Ramsay, of Orillia, Ontario.

"He is gone, and the place that knew him will know him no more."

He had devoted much of his time to literary pursuits, especially in Masonry, more particularly of late years, in connection with our late Brother † Longley, to matters relating to the various occult degrees and rites; not that he was impressed in reality with their usefulness or authenticity, but looking upon all so-called High Degrees as of a common origin and intention, felt justified in bringing forward and propounding,—such as he had specially selected,—to those who were interested in Masonic lore. In this view I did not coincide; there being already a legally established, recognized body of these degrees in Canada,—the A. and A.S. Rite, 33,—which, by all Masonic usage, should not have been interfered with.

Our lamented Brother died suddenly on the night of the 4th of January last, at Toronto, when apparently fast recovering from an accident, a broken leg, that he had met with two weeks previously, and no danger anticipated. Mrs. Ramsay, his wife, on the night of his death, had been reading to him a few minutes before he went to sleep, when shortly afterwards, springing up in bed, he fell over dead. How true it is, "that in the midst of life we are in death."

Fra. † Dr. Ramsay was born in London, England, on the 21st March, 1841, coming to Canada when quite a boy with his father, the late Rev. Canon Septimus Ramsay, M.