

## LEGISLATION.

The agenda paper will have informed you of the several subjects to be brought forward for consideration. The matter of the Scottish Encampments at New Brunswick, has been again mooted, no action to affiliate with us having taken place since our last assembling; and although I still agree with the liberal Masonic doctrine respecting private bodies that existed previous to the formation of another governing power than the one from which they derived their existence, viz: "Grand Lodge cannot take away Masonic life from a private Lodge which it did not give, without the consent of that Lodge," still, circumstances may arise to require the necessity of asserting the power of the governing body to exclusive jurisdiction. It has been reported to me that in New Brunswick the fees of the two Scottish Encampments there are absolutely nothing as compared to ours; from this, and other reasons assigned, the progress of our Preceptory, the "Union de Molay," at St. John, since the great fire in June 1877, when the Preceptory totally lost property to the amount of \$2,000, has been materially impeded, and its success retarded; in a word, that an unfortunate rivalry has been allowed to gain strength prejudicial to the order—the Scottish Encampments at St. John and neighboring town of St. Stephens assuming the ascendancy, and endeavoring, virtually, to suppress all attempts to advance the interest of the Preceptory holding allegiance to this Great Priory; in this case it becomes necessary for Great Priory to protect herself and subordinates. No advances have been made by the Chapter General of the Templar Order in Scotland to cultivate any fraternal intercourse, and I find on reference to the Scottish Masonic Calendar for this year, that but *nine* subordinate bodies are on the roll and act under Chapter General, viz:—four in Scotland, one in India, one in New South Wales, one in New Zealand, and two in New Brunswick.

## "ANNUAL MEETINGS OF GREAT PRIORY."

With respect to rescinding the resolution of Great Priory to hold its annual assembly at the City of Montreal, on the ground of its being a direct violation of the Statutes, Sec. 7, page 7,—I do not agree with this opinion, as it is no more illegal than any other change made in them by competent authority, viz:—"The Great Priory at its annual meetings, 'there is no law existing to prevent such change being made when considered advisable, but, to prevent any further misunderstanding on this point, it is proposed to add a clause to the Statutes, 'that no alteration or amendment be made to them until after due notice has been given in *writing* at a previous annual assembly,'" thus giving time for mature deliberation.