

directed the Grand Chancellor to summon a Special Assembly for the consideration thereof, at the city of Kingston, Ontario, on the 25th Feb. The Grand Master and Grand Chancellor were not present on account of illness and because of the extreme inclemency of the weather, but few representatives of Preceptories were in attendance. After discussion of the subject for the consideration of which they had been called together, the following preamble and resolution were carried:—

"Whereas the question to be discussed is of great importance to the Templars of Canada, involving the right of Canadian Masons to exercise the privileges accorded to them as a portion of the British Empire, equal in every respect to the Masons of other portions of the British Empire, whether residing in England, Ireland or Scotland, or any other portion of the Queen's dominions; and whereas, the attendance at the present time is not sufficient to justify Great Priory in withdrawing the Warrant issued to Metropolitan Preceptory, Melbourne, Colony of Victoria, Australia,

"Therefore, be it Resolved,—That all action be deferred until the case, as presented by Great Priory of England, be considered at the Annual Assembly of Great Priory, to meet in July next, and a decision arrived at; and that the Grand Chancellor be directed to specially call the attention of Preceptories to this question, and request them to instruct their representatives as to the course they are to pursue."

THE CAUSUS BELLI.

The Great Priory of Canada acting, as was evidently believed, lawfully and constitutionally, granted the Metropolitan Preceptory Warrant to our Antipodean Fratres, and the Great Priory of England has summarily

declared a raid act to be an "unjustifiable infringement of its jurisdiction," and in a bellicose manner, "requests" the immediate withdrawal of said Warrant by Canada, or incur the penalty of "fraternal ostracism." That is: England considers this a *casus belli* against Canada! Let us therefore calmly consider the matter, and, as is meet, betake ourselves to

"THE LAW AND THE TESTIMONY."

The Templary, is the Colony of Victoria "occupied" or "unoccupied" territory? and if the latter, did the Great Priory of Canada, act in accordance with goodly and well-established Masonic "custom and wont" in granting a Warrant for the establishment of Metropolitan Preceptory?

In the first place, it will generally be conceded to be axiomatic that all "Masonic" Rites, duly allied to Ancient, Free and Accepted Masonry, are, as to the establishment, government and procedure of their Grand and Subordinate Bodies,—founded upon and controlled by the laws and constitutions of Craft Masonry.

Any given territory is deemed to be "occupied" Masonically, when a local Sovereign Grand Body has been regularly and constitutionally established in and over the same. All other territories are "unoccupied." (The Masonic Grand Body has not yet been formed which has, or can rightfully "claim" to have, exclusive sovereign jurisdiction in all the Dependencies of the British Empire!)

In his Annual Address, Quebec, 1888, Grand Master GRAHAM recapitulated in fifteen tersely-expressed and hitherto undisputed propositions,