

so than by the Templar Body of Canada.

I congratulate you all upon the privilege of participating in the grand and important solemnization of a Jubilee year, earnestly hoping that such an auspicious event, may lead to the crowning gratification in Masonic Annals of a peaceful termination to the unfortunate misunderstanding between our English brethren and those of Canada (Quebec); which we trust will soon be happily adjusted, forgotten, and buried in oblivion, and thus make it a Masonic Jubilee in deed as well as in name.

THE CANADIAN-AUSTRALIAN WARRANT
AND THE GREAT PRIORY OF
ENGLAND.

It has been a source of much concern to me, that by a misapprehension, I should have led Great Priory into any dispute with the Parent Body of England, in granting a Preliminary Warrant to open a Preceptory in Melbourne, Colony of Victoria, Australia. All the details need not again be brought forward, having been submitted to "Great Priory" at the special meeting, held on the 25th February last, at Kingston, Ontario, summoned by me to take into consideration the decision of the Great Priory of England, to withdraw all communication with us, unless the objectionable Warrant was re-called.

You are aware that no result was arrived at, and the matter postponed until our Annual Assembly, in consequence of so few representatives being present, including the Grand Chancellor and myself, unable to attend through illness; the Grand Chancellor, I am grieved to say, having met with a sad family bereavement, in the death of his eldest son—a promising young soldier, who accompanied the expedition to the North-West Territory as an Officer in the Canadian Militia, to suppress the late Rebellion, going through all the hardships of the campaign, returning to his home in full health and strength, to enjoy his well-merited promotion, when he was thus suddenly cut off from amongst us.

I may reiterate that at the time of my granting the Warrant, I was fully impressed with the belief that the English Templar body in Victoria was dormant, and that concurrent jurisdiction had existed there. It was not until after Great Priory had met and confirmed my preliminary warrant that it was intimated

to me by the Deputy Grand Master, that he feared it might cause some unpleasantness with the parent body, which I had not thought of. I then wrote privately to the Chancery of the Great Priory of England, to know if they claimed *exclusive* jurisdiction in Australia, &c. The reply from the Great Sub-Priory was most unmistakable—asserting their *right* not only to it, but to *all* the Colonies of the Empire. In answer, I regretted any unpleasant complications having arisen, but explained that as the matter was now in the hands of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, nothing could be done until the Annual Convocation, when it would be brought forward. The next I heard of it, was in the issue of the English Templar Calender, demanding the withdrawal of the Warrant within three months, under the threat, if not complied with, of severing all connection with us, but which at their regular meeting in May last, they have postponed, until the result of our present Conclave is known.

I therefore felt it due to our members, to call a meeting of the Grand Council, which it was found necessary to cancel, and a Special Conclave of Great Priory summoned. The result you are aware of.

I feel now that I was in error not to have, in the first instance, before issuing the Dispensation, ascertained from the Chancery of the Great Priory of England, if any objection existed, and had I been aware of it, certainly would have yielded precedence to the claims of the Great Priory of England, which had hitherto never been disputed, whether based on justifiable grounds or otherwise.

The question before Great Priory is simply whether the demands of the Great Priory of England be complied with, and the Warrant re-called, or the authority of this Great Priory to issue the Warrant confirmed. The last alternative will separate us from all friendly intercourse with the Great Priory of England, from which, as Templars, we have never received anything but kindness and consideration.

My views being already fully expressed and known, it is not my intention to interfere further with whatever decision Great Priory may come to, as it rests entirely with them, and I feel assured that the honor and dignity of the Canadian body will be upheld, and strict justice to all parties observed.