

ADDRESS.

OF THE GRAND PRIOR OF CANADA AT THE ANNUAL GRAND CONCLAVE, HELD ON THE 14TH OF AUGUST, 1872, AT TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

FRATRES OF THE CHRISTIAN ORDER OF THE TEMPLE AND HOSPITAL FOR CANADA:—

"Another year with its many hopes and fears, its mercies and trials, has passed away, and we are once more permitted to assemble together and renew our bonds of Christian union. Gratitude for the blessings we enjoy should pervade our hearts, and prepare us to improve our meetings. Here, as Brethren engaged in one common cause, and having at heart one object, we ought to strive by a mutual interchange of fraternal feelings, and harmonious action on all matters connected with the prosperity of our purely Christian Order, to make this and every annual assembly an opportunity for the renewal of Unity, Friendship, and Harmony.

It is with pleasure I can state that the Order of the Temple and Hospital in England was never in a more prosperous condition than at present, and in every part of the wide extent of the jurisdiction of the Supreme Grand Conclave, it is yearly increasing in numbers and influence. Since the last meeting of Grand Priory, four new Encampments have been added to our roll in Canada, with one under Dispensation, all in the Province of Ontario. The "Gondemar" at the Village of Maitland, where I had the pleasure of installing a most enthusiastic and well-informed Brother as Eminent Commander, Frater George C. Longley. At Whitby, the "St. John the Almoner," under Eminent Commander George Henry Frewen Dartnell; and the "Palestine," of Port Hope, of which Frater James M. Irwin is Eminent Commander. In Toronto, from the representations made to me that there was sufficient scope in so large and influential a city I was induced to accede to a petition and recommend a warrant being granted for a second Encampment, the "Odo de St. Amand," having received the assurance of the Eminent Commander Elect, Frater Nelson Gordon Bigelow, that the relations between them and the existing old Encampment, the "Geoffrey de St. Aldemar," would be of the most courteous and cordial character, and tend to the establishing of a lasting friendship. The Deputy Provincial Grand Commander V. E. Frater S. B. Harman in his accustomed able and impressive manner, performed the beautiful ceremony of installation and consecration. All these Encampments will now receive their warrants from the Dominion Grand Chancellor.

In London, where I regretted last year having to report the arrest of the warrant of the "Richard Cœur de Lion" Encampment, I have granted a Dispensation to hold another Encampment, and the Eminent Commander Frater Alfred George Smyth, has been duly installed by the Dep. Prov. Grand Commander, with every prospect of a successful and harmonious result. I am glad to announce that Frater Thomas McMullen, who was suspended by me for contumacious conduct, has delivered to the Grand Chancellor the Minute and Cash Books of the old Encampment, so very improperly retained by him; and having expressed his regret, and forwarded me a written apology requesting to be allowed to retire from the Order in good standing, I have withdrawn the suspension, with the understanding that he does not continue to be an active member of the Order in Canada.

The announcement that H. R. H. the Prince of Wales had honoured the "Faith and Fidelity" Encampment of London, by being installed its Eminent Commander, will be hailed with sincere pleasure by the whole Templar body of England, and no where more enthusiastically than in this Dominion. The deep anxiety and regret caused by the late protracted and dangerous illness of His Royal Highness, and the subsequent rejoicings at his recovery, called forth from the hearts of all classes of Her Majesty's subjects feelings of the most intense loyalty to the throne, and devotion to himself; and may we thus ever, whether in prosperity or adversity, prove loyal to our vows and professions as Templars. With the Heralds, then, who lately proclaimed His Royal Highness Eminent Commander of the "Faith and Fidelity Encampment" let us, too, heartily exclaim,—*"Long life, honour, and prosperity, to His Royal Highness ALBERT EDWARD PRINCE OF WALES, Eminent Commander of the Temple and Hospital, and may God prosper and bless our illustrious and Royal brother!"*

The relations between ourselves and the sister Encampments of the United States, I am happy to say, continue to be of the most cordial and fraternal nature. The Encampment from Portland (Maine) paid a visit to Montreal in the month of June, and the Eminent Commander, with some twenty-four of his Knights, honored me with a visit at the Camp at Laprairie. I only regret that my time was so occupied with the duties of the military camp as to prevent my visiting them in Montreal, and