

ADDRESS:

Fratres of the National Great Priory,—

Time, on its ever onward course, has again brought us together to meet at our annual assembly, and, with mingled feelings of pleasure and pain, I cordially welcome you. With pleasure that we are again permitted to exchange fraternal greetings and intercourse; with pain, for, alas! one familiar form, whose voice will never again be heard amongst us, has not answered to the "roll call."

The dread summons has been issued to which we must all sooner or later respond. Our well known, valued, and esteemed Frater † W. B. Simpson, G. C. T., Past Great Sub Prior of this nationality, and Representative of the Great Priory of England near that of Canada, has answered to the call. In him we have lost one of the old landmarks of our fraternity,—now too few.

On the 3rd ult., he died, after a short illness, at his residence, the "Homewood," Coteau Landing, Province of Quebec, a place dear to him and hallowed by many family associations.

He was one of the early pioneers of the Templar Order in Canada, whom I myself installed in Kingston, Ont., in the "Hugh de Payens,"—the premier Preceptory (or, as it was then called, Encampment), in 1857, and it was only at our last Assembly, in October, I had the gratification of investing him with the decoration of a "Grand Cross" from H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, recommended by me as a just reward for his long and consistent devotion to the Templar Order.

It has been truly said of him, "He was an unflinching exponent of whatever he believed to be right, and never yielded to expediency to gain a little temporary popularity."

Strong in his belief and trust in his God, he was a leading member of the Church of England, taking an active part in all church affairs. It was only about three weeks before his death he attended the executive committee of the Montreal Synod, and manifested his usual active interest in the missionary cause.

In his Masonic career, he was faithful to the traditions of the motherland, endeavoring to draw closer the tie and bond of amity which should ever exist between us and our adopted country.

At the reception given to the Chancellor of the Great Priory of England, † Frater Stavely Hill, he mainly assisted and loyally

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