

OTHER GRAND COUNCILS,

and it is my pleasing duty to announce to you that during the past year we have had the following representatives appointed near this Grand Council. By the Grand Council of Rhode Island, R. Ill. Comp. Geo. C. Longley. By the Grand Council of New Jersey, R. Ill. Comp. Jas. O'Connor. By the Grand Council of Minnesota, R. Ill. Comp. W. H. Porter; and although the credentials have not reached me, I am credibly informed that our esteemed friend Col. W. J. B. McLeod Moore, Grand Prior of the Great Priory of Canada, has been named as the representative of our young Sister Grand Council of England, and I have appointed the following Comps. as the representatives of this Grand Council. R. Ill. Comps. Walter Blodgett, to the Grand Council of Rhode Island; P. H. Redway, P. G. M., to the Grand Council of New Jersey; G. B. Cooley, to the Grand Council of Minnesota; to the Grand Council of England. In asking you to confirm these appointments, which will increase the number of Grand Councils with whom we are now in fraternal and amicable correspondence to thirty-two, I desire to have it placed on record, so that there may be no possible grounds for misunderstanding in future, that they are all made subject to your approval and confirmation, and that I recognise it as the unquestionable right of this Grand Council to reject or confirm any or all of the appointments I have made. It is also for you to say whether the Comps. named as the representatives of other bodies near this Grand Council will be acceptable to you in that capacity, if they are not, then it will be the duty of your Grand Master to conform to your views and to respectfully ask that the appointment be withdrawn, and that some other Comps. be named whose presence in the honorable capacity of representative, will not be objectionable to Grand Council. In my address to Grand Council,

AT THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN 1874.

I referred to a resolution that had been adopted by the New York Convention, declaring it to be the opinion of those present that the Degrees of Royal and Select Master should be a pre-requisite to the orders of Knighthood, and I there gave expression to the opinion that it was not *then* "advisable that we should take such action in this jurisdiction," as I was of opinion "that the Cryptic Rite should occupy an entirely independent position." While I still think that we should not forget the dignity due to ourselves as an important Grand Body by humbly soliciting rights, and privileges from those who are unwilling to concede them, I have no hesitation in now directing your attention to the consideration of a subject of such vast importance to Cryptic Masonry in Canada, so that at a future Assembly you may be prepared to take some decided action thereon. and after it has been fully discussed in all its bearings in the subordinate Councils, and you have given it that considerate attention which its great importance demands, you may, perhaps, be prepared to ask the newly created Great Priory of the Order of Knights Templars of Canada, to concede this great point to us by inserting a clause in its Constitution requiring all candidates for the Orders of Knighthood to have taken the Degrees of Royal and Select Masters. The Masonic family of Canada is of too great importance, and is too closely allied for our older and stronger bodies to treat us with neglect and apparent indifference, without ultimately bringing discredit upon themselves. Masonry is a vast system and all the grades are so closely interwoven, that whatever has a tendency to elevate and advance our branch, must naturally assist in the progress of all the others. It is therefore our duty as earnest zealous workers in the ninth Arch, as firm advocates of a perfect system in Masonry that cannot be completed without the Degrees conferred in the Council of Royal and Select Masters forming an important link, and as honest admirers of the important and useful lessons taught in these Degrees, to use our utmost exertions to have them placed in their proper order in the regular line of Masonic Progression.

I have also to bring under your notice the position now occupied by Grand Council regarding the Degree of Red Cross of Babylon. You are aware that it is regularly conferred in our Councils as a portion of our system, and that Preceptor of Knights Templar Preceptories have the power of communicating the Degree in their Preceptories of Knights Templar only. The Convent General of England and Wales and the British Possessions of the Order of the Temple, does not consider this Degree has any connection with the Temple Order, and in order that Canadian Templars might be in possession of the Degree, a treaty stipulation was entered into some years ago by Rt. Emt. Sir Knt. Hubbard, the then Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States, and the V. H. and Emt. Sir Knt. Col. W. J. B. McLeod Moore, as the head of the Temple Order in Canada, by the terms of which authority was given to Em. Commanders of Encampments in Canada to communicate the Order of the Red Cross according to the American system of the Rite, to enable Canadian Knights to visit American Commanderies.

On the formation of the Grand Council of New Brunswick in 1871, the Grand Prior