

English or Scottish Encampments in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Col. Moore, for a long term of years, was Provincial Grand Commander over a part of Canada, like authority to that granted him, being also delegated to Hon. Alex. Keith, of Halifax, who was recognized as the Provincial Grand Commander of Nova Scotia, until his death in 1873. It was not until after this date, that Col. Moore, taking rank as Grand Prior by reason of changes made in the *English* Organization to which he owed fealty, made claim for larger jurisdiction. In his address to the Grand Priory, in 1874, he says:—

“By the terms of my Patent as Grand Prior the whole of British North America is included, but as the late Hon. Alex Keith of Halifax held a warrant from the former Conclave of England as Provincial Grand Commander for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, it was not considered desirable during his lifetime to merge those Provinces into that of the Grand Priory. The death of this distinguished Brother and Knight on the 17th December last removed the difficulty, and I at once wrote to the authorities in *England* claiming those territories, and, in reply from the Grand Vice Chancellor and Acting Registrar, was informed that the Council of the Great Priory had at once decided that from the date of Provincial Prior Keith's death the territory over which he had presided came under my jurisdiction. By this, two additional Preceptories have been added to our roll; and I trust that on the formation of our National Priory, the Scottish Preceptory at St. John, New Brunswick, and the Irish one at L'Orignal, Ontario, will be induced to join us—it being most desirable that there should be no conflicting jurisdiction in the Dominion.”

Here then, under the changed condition, a claim is made by the Grand Prior, that the *English* Encampments in the Maritime Provinces, had come within his control, and the hope is

expressed that the Scottish Encampment of St. John may be induced to accept similar authority. There is no assertion, however, of any right or purpose to coerce said Encampment; and no claim is made by the Grand Prior, that he has any other than a delegated power, received from the Great Priory of England.

Two years later, in 1876, the governing body in England, having enlarged the scope of its powers, and its jurisdiction also, issued a Patent, constituting the Dominion of Canada into a National Great Priory, and appointing Col. Moore the Great Prior of such new organization. This document, signed by the Prince of Wales, Grand Master of the Order in England and Ireland, expressly stipulated that the new Great Priory of Canada should be subordinate—“Subject to Us, and our Successors”—and it gave to the Great Prior only limited powers. Evidently there was here no giving or receiving authority over the Scottish branch of the Order. If the Encampments in New Brunswick, allegiant to Scotland, ever had the right to exist, such a right was not impaired by the new departure of 1876. The Prince of Wales, as the head of the Order in England, had no authority to give the newly-created Great Priory in Canada full and complete jurisdiction. They have the jurisdiction, and he assumed no such stretch of power. He did not aim at establishing the Great Prior in a position of independency.

As time went on, and the test of experience was applied to the Great Priory of Canada, the position and working of the organization were found to be not altogether satisfactory. So much was claimed in the way of independent sovereignty, that the tendency was to claim more. Thus it came about, that at the Annual Conclave of the Great Priory, in 1883, action was taken appealing to the Prince of Wales, Grand Master of the Convent General, to set aside the restriction imposing fealty to him