

could make no mistake in this regard, but unfortunately it is not always what is true that has most influence; more frequently it is what is thought to be true that guides the majority. Personally, I think the refusal of the two Scotch Encampments of New Brunswick to unite with us is indefensible from a Templar standpoint, inasmuch as it is universally recognized that in unity there is strength, and in division, heartburnings, rivalry and weakness.

When Deputy Grand Master, I was informed that the Knights Templar of the Maritime Provinces owing allegiance to the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, felt that they had been overlooked both in the selection of the highest officers and in the places of meeting. I am glad to be able to point out the fact that no such complaint can now be made, and I have reason to hope that renewed activity and increased zeal will be the result of having held a Conclave in St. John, and the formation of closer personal acquaintance and nearer friendships between the Frates of the east and west of Canada.

It gives me unalloyed pleasure to congratulate you on the increased numerical strength and financial soundness of the Order. At the end of last year we had 1273 members and a surplus of \$1262.41 in the treasury. At the end of the present year we have 1368 members, an increase of 95, with \$1455.71 in the bank.

The expenses of conducting the business of the Order have really been smaller than usual, and the amount of \$91.00 expended was for printing and binding 400 copies of the Statutes as revised and authorized at the last meeting of the Sovereign Great Priory. As the new Rituals and Statutes have both been paid for out of the surpluses of the last three years, we have good reason to feel satisfied with our present cash balance, which I hope will not be needed for any such unusual purposes.

In the work done by the Preceptories I have not only noticed a great improvement, but the Provincial Priors have had encouraging evidences of greater care, study and practice. It must be remembered that no Preceptory can be attractive or successful without doing the work well and conferring the degrees with the

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