

It has now become necessary, and indeed this Great Priory is bound distinctly to declare by resolution its independence, owning allegiance to the Prince of Wales, as Sovereign Grand Master, but the *Peer* of all other governing Templar bodies, asserting and claiming authority over the whole Dominion of Canada, and refuting the pretensions of any foreign body to assume superiority over it.

I think for the future it would tend to prevent much misunderstanding, and add greatly to the prosperity and prestige of Great Priory, if Preceptories instructed their delegates carefully and distinctly as to what measures they wished brought forward for legislation. All real or fancied grievances could then be properly and carefully dealt with, instead of complaints being made through the secular press, a practise most unwise and unmasonic, particularly where there is a Masonic organ in Canada, *THE CRAFTSMAN*, open to refer to on all legitimate questions.

Members of our Great Priory, or Templar Parliament of the Dominion, can all originate legislation on any subject when they feel disposed to do so, and Great Priory, I have no doubt, will adopt any proper measure that may be submitted to them.

In my position as Great Prior of Canada, I am the representative and "alter ego" of the Grand Master, liable to be removed by him at pleasure, and it is intended that I should only confine myself to a general supervision, and not interfere with the administrative details, in imitation of the political position of the Dominion with regard to the Mother Country, my duty is therefore to stand firmly upon the existing statutes, and I do not see that any blame can be attached to me for not doing that which I have no right to do; in all other respects Great Priory has the *whole and sole control* of its legislation and government.

"OF THE GREAT SUB-PRIOR."

Although I believe in political circles, it is usual not to deprive the head of a body of the nomination of his ministers, on the grounds that it is not possible for a minister to carry on business with a professed opposition in his Cabinet, I have considered that as my appointment of "Great Prior" is a direct one from H. R. H. the Grand Master, and feeling convinced that you have the prosperity of this Great Priory as much at heart as myself, I now willingly resign and place in your hand the nomination of the "Great Sub-Prior" of the Dominion as your representative, with a recommendation that being the highest rank amongst the officers of Great Priory, and the Sub-Prior liable at any moment to be called upon to rule Great Priory, he hold the office for two if not three consecutive years.