

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 hands 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.

LEGISLATION.

The agenda paper will have informed you of the several subjects to be brought forward for consideration. The matter of the Scottish Encampments at New Brunswick, has been again mooted, no action to affiliate with us having taken place since our last assembling; and although I still agree with the liberal Masonic doctrine respecting private bodies that existed previous to the formation of another governing power than the one from which they derived their existence, viz: “Grand Lodge cannot take away Masonic life from a private Lodge which it did not give, without the consent of that Lodge,” still, circumstances may arise to require the necessity of asserting the power of the governing body to exclusive jurisdiction. It has been reported to me that in New Brunswick the fees

of the two Scottish Encampments there are absolutely nothing as compared to ours; from this, and other reasons assigned, the progress of our Preceptory, the “Union de Molay, at St. John, since the great fire in June 1877, when the Preceptory totally lost property to the amount of \$2,000, has been materially impeded, and its success retarded; in a word, that an unfortunate rivalry has been allowed to gain strength prejudicial to the order—the Scottish Encampments at St. John and neighboring town of St. Stephens assuming the ascendancy, and endeavoring, virtually, to suppress all attempts to advance the interest of the Preceptory holding allegiance to this Great Priory; in this case it becomes necessary for Great Priory to protect herself and subordinates. No advances have been made by the Chapter General of the Templar Order in Scotland to cultivate any fraternal intercourse, and I find on reference to the Scottish Masonic Calendar for this year, that but *nine* subordinate bodies are on the roll and act under Chapter General, viz:—four in Scotland, one in India, one in New South Wales, one in New Zealand, and two in New Brunswick.

“ANNUAL MEETINGS OF GREAT PRIORY.”

With respect to rescinding the resolution of Great Priory to hold its annual assembly at the City of Montreal, on the ground of its being a direct violation of the Statutes, Sec. 7, page 7,—I do not agree with this opinion, as it is no more illegal than any other change made in them by competent authority, viz:—“The Great Priory at its annual meetings, ‘there is no law existing to prevent such change being made when considered advisable, but, to prevent any further misunderstanding on this point, it is proposed to add a clause to the Statutes, ‘that no alteration or amendment be made to them until after due notice has been given in *writing* at a previous annual assembly,’ thus giving time for mature deliberation. However, I cannot help admitting it is only reasonable, that, as all but *three* Preceptories are held in the Province of Ontario, that members might naturally wish to suit their own convenience, to have Great Priory meet there, and in conjunction with the Grand Royal