

premacv, as intruders on her territory, the right to do so being fully acknowledged by the existing Masonic law on this continent, respecting the sovereignty of governing bodies, and fully endorsed as one of the fundamental principles of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

Every inducement was held out to the Scottish Encampments in New Brunswick to amalgamate with the National body, by offering to receive them on an equal footing with the Preceptories of the Dominion, and they were fully aware that it had been the intention of Great Priory to assert her independence and sovereignty.

Great Priory meeting with no response, an edict was issued, prohibiting intercourse with the Scottish Encampments in New Brunswick, as a foreign body in the Dominion, and whatever adverse opinions may now be indulged in, and however legal the source from whence they sprung when first established in Canada, the altered state of the Canadian Templar jurisdiction demanded decided action to maintain their authority.

It has been shown that England had resigned authority over Canada, as a Provincial dependency, and dissolved all Templar connection with her. On what grounds, then, can the Scottish members base their objections as to the legality and supremacy of the Sovereign Great Priory? It is remarkable that the members of St. John's Encampment, who raise the objections that Great Priory is still a Provincial body of England, asserting the English branch never was dissolved. How is it, then, that they who are members of the Supreme Grand Council, A. & A. S. Rite, 33°, of Canada, joined that body constituted with the same objection? No fault was then found by them to the Provincial bodies of that rite not being dissolved, when these bodies were consulted in regard to the formation of a Supreme Council for Canada. Does not that body now exist by vir-

tue of a patent from England, and were not these brethren quite ready to join it, and to get the rank of the 33° and last grade of the rite, making no objection that the Provincial subordinates should be first dissolved?

The present opposition can serve no good purpose, and appears confined to the members of the St. John's Encampment, the Chapter General of Scotland having made no protest against the National Great Priory assuming control over the whole Dominion, nor have they laid any claim to concurrent jurisdiction in Canada.

It is to be regretted that the Acting Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of the United States, did not feel justified in withholding his permission for one of his Commanderies visiting, on a late occasion, the Scottish Encampment of St. Johns, in New Brunswick, being aware that Encampment did not acknowledge the authority of Great Priory, and by this means giving countenance to a foreign body in Canada openly opposed to Great Priory.

It would also be more consistent in the Masonic journals of the United States to assert their own established rules for the supremacy of governing bodies, instead of annulling them by upholding the pretensions of what has become, in the course of events, illegal bodies in the Dominion, and thus renewing the vexed question, and most unhappy dissensions consequent on the disputed action of English Masonic bodies still existing in the acknowledged occupied territory of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of Quebec.

It is greatly to be deplored that those who profess to found their actions on Christian charity and brotherly love, should be so ill-judged as to support the useless and untenable position of opposing the ruling Templar power in the Dominion, only calculated to undermine the peace and harmony of the Templar body, by sowing the seeds of discord. Such a course is not the most desirable to-