

## GREAT BRITAIN.

Bro. MacGregor's report will speak for itself, so I will read it:

London, August 19th, 1873.

To D. C. Fraser, Esq., B. A., M. W. Secretary, British Templars:

DEAR BROTHER,—I am exceedingly sorry that the Report which, through you, I have to submit to the Most Worthy Lodge, must, owing to the present state of negotiations and my own circumstances, be somewhat vague and unsatisfactory. It has hitherto been customary among the Free Templars to hold a meeting of Grand Lodges in Spring as well as in Autumn; and at the time of the last meeting of M. W. G. Lodge I hoped that our negotiations for union might, before this, have resulted in a resolution to unite. The Spring meeting, however, was not held this year; and hence the resolution has not yet received a formal discussion. While, however, I cannot transmit in my report any formal decision on the subject of union, I think I can with safety say that the end of our year finds us much nearer the consummation for which we hope than its beginning did. The negotiations which have been carried on by the Union Committee of the Free Templars, the deep interest which they had taken on the subject, and the many discussions which we have held, have resulted in the formation of a basis of union, to which, I think, we can both agree.

It may be remembered that at the time of the last session of our M. W. G. Lodge it was expected that the Free Templars would resolve that their Grand Lodge should become a Grand Lodge of our Order, and with certain modifications, accept our Constitution. To this proposal, however, some objections were raised at the last meeting of their Grand Lodge; and though I do not think them such as would likely have interrupted negotiations, they had sufficient force to cause me to accept, and immediately to act upon, a suggestion which was made by our M. W. Chief, and has resulted in the formation of such a Basis of Union as, I think, will commend itself to both Orders.

When I left Edinburgh the Union Committee had agreed substantially upon the basis which they were prepared to submit to their Grand Lodge; but they had not embodied their opinions in a Report. Their convener promised to forward to me the report whenever it was completed; but as he has not yet done so, I conclude that it has not yet been drawn up. I am, therefore, unable to tell you exactly what will be submitted to the Grand Lodge; but I can give you the substance of what the Committee hopes and expects to be passed. It is as follows:

"The Free Templars of St. John are to give up their present name and to adopt that of British Templars; using it on their Regalia, Seals, Stock, &c., and beginning to use it at a time to be specified. While, however, they adopt the name, they do not adopt the Constitution and Bye-laws of our Order. The Committee agree with our M. W. Chief, our M. W. Secretary, and myself in the opinion that there is no reason why a great body such as the British Templars are to become, should have a Constitution going so minutely into details as the one which we at present possess does; that the fact of its having this character is likely to impede our progress and prevent us from attaining to the imperial nature which we desire; and that a Constitution of a more general nature, which would leave minor questions to be settled by inferior courts, and to occupy the position of Bye-laws of those courts, would enable us to spread our principles much more rapidly and to attain much more nearly to universality than we had ever done heretofore. These considerations have led the Committee to ad-