

It does not seem possible that they are unaware of the correctness and advantages of the changes introduced, and it must only be inferred that this strong feeling of opposition has arisen from the changes being carried out by, as it were, a sort of surprise, and in fact, as they consider, being "ultra vires." In Canada, after issuing the protest, when it was understood the minutes of Convent General were not capable of contest, unless for the reason that they were not correctly recorded, and what had been done in Convent General could only be altered by new notices of motion and a re-opening of the whole question, it became necessary for the Great Priory of Canada to protect herself from any future innovations of Convent General, where the English Great Priory have practically all the power, and are always on the spot to act in concert: hence the resolution adopted at our last meeting. There cannot be a question that both the Great Priories of Ireland and Canada had not been properly considered when the changes in the statutes were made, and therefore cannot be expected to accept the voting of Convent General as conclusive of their interests in them; at the same time, the Great Priory of Canada can still adhere to her own views of the question without departing from the federation of the whole body. We desire to adhere to the constitutions laid down by Convent General Statutes in 1873, and we confirm our protest of 10th March, 1877. If differences are to exist in Great Priories, this Great Priory will retain the statutes which were passed in Great Priory of the 10th August, 1876; but if the cohesion and uniformity of the Order can be ensured by an alteration, such as that previously proposed by the Council of the Great Priory of England in May, 1877, I think I am right in saying that this Great Priory will assent to a limited past rank, as proposed, but decline to adopt the term "Eminent Commander," not deeming it an historical designation or consistent with ancient usage to call the head of a Preceptory by that title, the statutes of Convent General to remain intact in every other respect. It is to be earnestly desired that there should be unity of feeling and similarity of practice between the Great Priories, but it is evident that the section of the English Great Priory who desire to return to and retain the old system have, for a long time past, considered themselves the ultimate and supreme authority over all Templar matters in England and the British Colonies, and do not think of Ireland or Canada as having any power independently of them. This perhaps may not be a very unnatural idea, but the sooner it is dispelled, and a more liberal and correct one entertained, the more satisfactory will it be for the future prosperity of the Order. I understand that at the present time, taking a series of Preceptories, not two in England will be found entirely to agree in nomenclature or costume, a state of things most unsatisfactory and confusing. The fact that H. R. H. the Prince of Wales is our Grand Master should be a sufficient incentive to heal differences of opinion, and induce concessions on minor points as a prudent termination of the difficulties we labour under.

ON RITUAL.

We have now to decide upon, and confirm the adoption of the future ritual for the Order in Canada. I have already stated my opinion of the one submitted by the Committee of Convent General, and which if it had not been for the schism raised in the Great Priory of England, would now by the terms of the Federal Union, have been in use and adopted without any qualifications; but as