

M. E. Sir Knight Edmund E. Sheppard, Supreme Grand Master, then read his

ADDRESS.

SIR KNIGHTS:—It is with heartfelt pleasure that I meet you again in this Twelfth Conclave of our beloved Order.

It should be our first impulse to thank the Divine Giver of all that is good for the continuation of His great blessings to us individually and to Knight Templarism in general. Yet amidst these many blessings it is impossible for us to forget the sorrow that has shadowed our hearts owing to the death of those dearly beloved R. E. Sir Knights G. S. Wright, P. J. Slatter, F. J. Menet and L. H. Henderson. All had been most active and zealous in their work, all were struck down in their prime and left hundreds of grief stricken friends, who while life lasts will never forget them nor cease to cherish their memory. As a ritualist as well as a frater, Dr. Wright's loss is an irreparable one, as he was doubtless the best Canadian exponent of the Maltese rite.

I regret to see that our Assembly is much smaller than usual, but this was to be expected, inasmuch as our place of meeting is remote from the Province where we are numerically strongest. It was thought a good year to meet in St. John, as many of our members were anxious to attend the Triennial Conclave of our American Frates, and it seemed reasonable that with the double attraction in the East they would come here on their way to Boston. Circumstances, however, have been against us both as to railway rates and owing to the fact that the Scotch Encampments in St. John and St. Stephens have refused to unite with us. In the latter regard, I think that the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada did everything possible to effect a union on mutually self-respecting and honorable terms; and the refusal of all reasonable propositions by the Scotch Encampments has, I am afraid, led many of our Sir Knights to doubt whether they would be welcome here even if they came. Those of us who know the whole-souled hospitality of the Scotch Sir Knights as well as that of Union de Molai Preceptory, and the people of the Maritime Provinces,