

Convent General meeting triennially, or at such time as H. R. H. might be pleased to call it together, as an opportunity for the Grand Master to come amongst the Order distributing honors and installing Grand Officers, etc., etc., would no doubt give general satisfaction and make it deservedly popular.

We must remember the Order is now a part of the Masonic body, and we cannot in the present day pretend to adhere to all the restrictions of our great chivalric original, however much we may endeavor to conform to its doctrine and usages, nor can we pretend to divide the Order into Knights, Chaplains, Squires, Pages, and Serving Brethren, with the understanding that many of the three latter classes will never be able to attain the "accolade" or the highest office; each nationality in its details is entitled to adopt their own views without interfering with the general Rules and Regulations of the Association.

"Convent General," being no longer a united body, is virtually broken up, and the homogeneity provided for in the third article of union, is, *de facto*, abolished, leaving us further from the object sought to be obtained than ever.

The United States Templars had proposed a treaty with Convent General which had been referred to the Arch Chancellor, but there is no hope of its being carried out new, or indeed at any time, excepting as a mere form, from the dissimilarity of the two systems.

This want of unanimity is greatly to be regretted, as it cannot be denied the union had much to recommend it, and was calculated to elevate, ennoble, and dignify the Order, with something of the *reality* of a chivalric body, making its titles valuable and acceptable by reviving the spirit and distinctive principles of the ancient Order; but as at present constituted and engrafted on Freemasonry, it does not appear possible to induce the members to agree on this point, which seems to me could only be brought about in the British Dominions if Templary could be suddenly reduced in numbers and then made *by law*, like the higher degrees of Masonry in Sweden, a genuine

order of the State. This is quite feasible, having so many of the Royal family members interested in the Order, and may indeed have been the original intention and meaning of the union. It would then have the *reality* which it never can otherwise, as it is, not being recognized by the government or civil authorities as anything more than an association of Freemasons under the name of Knights Templar; however real it may be in this sense it can have no reality as true Templary, or as a military and chivalric Order; yet as an appendage to Freemasonry, it is, and must be respected, from the principles advocated, and having Her Majesty the Queen its patron, and H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, the chief head.

It has now become necessary, and indeed this Great Priory is bound distinctly to declare by resolution its independence, owning allegiance to the Prince of Wales, as Sovereign Grand Master, but the *Peer* of all other governing Templar bodies, asserting and claiming authority over the whole Dominion of Canada, and refuting the pretensions of any foreign body to assume superiority over it.

I think for the future it would tend to prevent much misunderstanding, and add greatly to the prosperity and prestige of Great Priory, if Preceptories instructed their delegates carefully and distinctly as to what measures they wished brought forward for legislation. All real or fancied grievances could then be properly and carefully dealt with, instead of complaints being made through the secular press, a practise most unwise and unmasonic, particularly where there is a Masonic organ in Canada, THE CRAFTSMAN, open to refer to on all legitimate questions.

Members of our Great Priory, or Templar Parliament of the Dominion, can all originate legislation on any subject when they feel disposed to do so, and Great Priory, I have no doubt, will adopt any proper measure that may be submitted to them.

In my position as Great Prior of Canada, I am the representative and "alter ego" of the Grand Master, liable to be removed by him at pleasure, and it is intended that I should