

such meeting—should no reply be, in the meantime, received from England—the Grand Prior will summon an Emergent Assembly for the purpose of taking such action in the premises as may be deemed most conducive to the honor and welfare of the Grand Priory of Canada, suggesting that the Annual Meeting of the Board of General Purposes of Grand Lodge, to be held in Cobourg next February, be selected as the occasion of such Emergent Assembly.”

II. The following resolution, moved by V. E. Sir Knight Seymour, now Provincial Prior for Western Ontario, and E. Sir Knight Spry,

“ That with a view of enabling the several Preceptories in Canada to give an intelligent expression of opinion on the valuable address of the V. H. & E. The Grand Prior, and the report of Grand Council thereon, copies be at once forwarded to each Preceptory for consideration therein, so that their qualified representatives may be instructed to intimate their views, at the proposed special Assembly of this Grand Priory, to be held after the approaching Session of Convent General.”

The desire for an emergent call of Grand Priory in February, as gathered from the above, seems to turn on the expression “should no reply be, in the meantime, received from England,” and which contingency seems further expressed in the words “proposed special assembly” in the resolution; and as a reply so full and satisfactory has been received, The Grand Prior deems the contingency at an end, and with it, the necessity of exposing the members of Grand Priory to the difficulties and inconveniences of travelling, many from a great distance, at so inclement a season, to attend an emergent meeting.

With a view, however, of preparing for the regular assembly, to be called after the reception of the patent, and anticipating the many changes in our organization, incident to our becoming a National Great Priory, The Grand Prior proposes to convene the Grand Council at the time proposed, namely next February, to take the same into consideration and to proceed especially with the preparation of the Statutes which the laws of Convent General decree that “each Great Priory shall make regulating its particular jurisdiction,” and the importance of dealing with which with the most matured care and attention is self evident in view of the future well being of the Great Priory of Canada.

I am desired by the Grand Prior to conclude with his assurance, that great as has been his anxiety for the welfare of the Order in Canada, it is necessarily increased in contemplating our erection into an Independent Body which, in the words of our Memorial, “must, in the course of events, become one of the most powerful and influential under the Convent General,” and towards the accomplishment of which he invites the individual and collective co-operation of EVERY TEMPLAR OF THE DOMINION.

I remain, E. Sir and Frater, Yours courteously and fraternally,

‡ R. P. STEPHENS,
Grand Vice-Chancellor.

APPENDIX A.

“ TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, MOST EMINENT AND SUPREME GRAND MASTER, AND THE CONVENT GENERAL OF THE UNITED RELIGIOUS AND MILITARY ORDERS OF THE TEMPLE AND OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, PALESTINE, RHODES, AND MALTA.

“ *The Memorial of the Templars of the several Preceptories of the United Religious and Military Orders of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes, and Malta, in the Dominion of Canada, under the jurisdiction of the former Grand Conclave of England and Wales, SHEWETH:—*

“ That on or about the year 1855 the Masonic Order in Canada, theretofore holding under the three parent jurisdictions of England, Scotland, and Ireland, in view of the dignity and position which Canada had then assumed and bids fair to attain, sought by consolidation into a separate and self-governing organization, to secure a Masonic status commensurate therewith; and it may be at once conceded that by thus bringing the Craft into permanent local union the advancement of the best interests of Masonry were subserved; and with the rapid material and political progress of Canada her Grand Lodge has kept pace, the impetus given, by opening up an extended field for Masonic operation, having enlisted the energies of many of the most gifted and talented brethren to give to Canadian Masonry a foremost and recognized position.

“ Nor could Royal Arch Masonry, the immediate prerequisite of the Templar Order, be less honorably regarded, and the organization of the Grand Chapter of Canada, which followed closely that of the Grand Lodge, has been attended with no less happy and conspicuous results of rapid progress and national recognition. And it may be