

Canada existed exclusively under English rule, where they had first established Provincial Bodies in Upper and Lower Canada, and subsequently in the Province of Nova Scotia, including that of New Brunswick, under the late Honorable Alex. Keith as Grand Commander.

When the political changes took place in 1867, reconstructing the British Provinces of North America, the Grand Conclave of England issued a warrant to their Grand Commander in Canada, changing the name of his Provincial Grand Conclave to that of "Grand Priory" for the Dominion, authorizing him to assume the title of Grand Prior of Canada, reserving the then existing rights of the Provincial Grand Commander of Nova Scotia. By some misconception it was not clearly understood that the Province of New Brunswick was included in the Templar District of Nova Scotia, where, in the City of St. John, an Encampment existed established in 1856 under the Chapter General of Scotland.

The Grand Prior of Canada, by virtue of his patent, issued a provisional warrant in 1869, to open the "Union de Molay" Encampment in St John, New Brunswick. This called forth a protest from the Chapter General of Scotland, on the plea of intruding on their territory, as also a communication from the Grand Conclave of England, requiring an explanation for having encroached on the jurisdiction of the Provincial Grand Commander of Nova Scotia.

This controversy terminated by the Grand Conclave of England authorizing Provincial Grand Commander Keith to issue another warrant to the "Union de Molay" Encampment and in the Chapter General of Scotland no longer insisting upon a claim to New Brunswick, St. John's Encampment being allowed to continue under the jurisdiction of Scotland.

This left at that period, 19 Encampments under the Provincial Grand Priory, exclusive of the Union de

Molay of New Brunswick and "Nova Scotia" Encampment of Halifax, in the District presided over by Provincial Grand Commander Keith. At his death in December, 1873, the Grand Conclave of England directed that the district should be amalgamated into the jurisdiction of the Grand Priory of Canada.

On the formation of a "Convent General" in England, composed of the national governing Templar bodies of the Empire, with H. R. H. the Prince of Wales as Supreme Grand Master of the Convention, the Provincial Grand Priory of Canada, following in the footsteps of the political changes in its consolidation of the Provinces into a Canadian Dominion, petitioned Convent General to be admitted as one of the Convention. This was granted in 1876 by patent, and Grand Priory declared a National Great Priory, on an equal footing with the Great Priory of England and Wales and Nationality of Ireland, Scotland having withdrawn from the alliance at its commencement.

The first act of the Great Priory of Canada, as a national body, was to invite the Scottish Templars of New Brunswick to join them, and at the time, assurances were held out that they would ultimately do so.

"Convent General," having fallen of late years into abeyance, the Great Priory of Canada felt that it would be for the best interests of the Canadian body to separate from the alliance, and having signified their desire to the Supreme Grand Master of "Convent General," (not as commonly supposed, as head of the English nationality,) he declared them absolved from all connection with Convent General and allegiance to himself.

Great Priory being thus relieved from all restrictions on her actions, and recognized as the supreme governing power of the Dominion, felt bound to maintain her authority by declaring all Templar bodies in Canada, which did not acknowledge her su-