

Lawrence, where an old Craft Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter have long been established, and I have every reason to think the Preceptory will now flourish, as I regret to say it had fallen into some disorder and decay, chiefly owing to the extraordinary and unauthorized conduct of the former Registrar.

In October and November last, I visited this Preceptory, accompanied by the Provincial Prior † Fra. Lazier, of Belleville, who had made tedious journeys and spared neither time or trouble to restore harmony and the proper conducting of the business of the Preceptory, without any permanent good results.

Upon investigating complaints made to me, I considered it necessary to suspend the Registrar, my reasons for so doing the Grand Chancellor will lay before you.

The irregular manner in which the ceremonies of the Order had been conducted was brought to my notice, and were anything but calculated to insure success or respect; it appears to have been the custom of the Presiding Officer "to hurry through all receptions—declaring the Chapter open—reading a few passages from the ritual, and after a partial explanation of the modes of recognition, again declaring the Chapter closed until some future time, when the remainder of the ceremony would be communicated."

Apparently, it is too often the practice for indolent Preceptors to allow the Registrar, or other officer who may have held the office of Preceptor, to assume control and rule the Preceptory as he thinks fit, which must ultimately destroy its prestige and the confidence of the members. Under such circumstances, how is it possible for any Preceptory to prosper, or is it to be wondered at, that members become dissatisfied and seek from a different "system" the information denied them in their own, endeavoring to obtain some compensation for time and money thrown away, thus bringing discredit on the teachings of the United Orders in Canada.

I must again earnestly call upon all Provincial Priors of Districts to exert themselves, and by frequent inspections of their Preceptories, insist upon the rituals and regulations being strictly adhered to and properly expounded, and no innovations whatever permitted. It is lamentable to think that Fratres should take upon themselves the responsible duties and obligations of a Preceptor, and care so little about them afterwards, as not even to take the trouble of perfecting themselves in the true meaning and sublimity of the Templar and Malta degrees, ceremonies so simple and carefully prepared, that "all who run may read." The merest tyro of a school-boy can learn by rote what is set before him. Here it is the sacred duty of the Presiding