

The Grand Chancellor submitted statements of the receipts and expenditures for the past year, which exhibited the state of the finances of the Grand Priory to be in a much more satisfactory condition than heretofore.

E. ‡ Frater Robert Ramsay presented his credentials as the accredited Representative from the Grand Commandery of the State of Ohio, in the Grand Priory of Canada, which were courteously received and accepted.

V. E. ‡ Frater S. B. Harman on behalf of the committee on address submitted the following report :

• *To the V. E. the Grand Prior and the Officers of the Grand Priory :*

Your Committee beg to submit the following report on the address of the V. E. the Grand Prior :

That the cordial acknowledgment of Grand Conclave be tendered with the highest knightly courtesy to the distinguished Templar, who, having been instrumental in its introduction into Canada, has since so worthily and zealously watched over, encouraged and upheld the dignity of our high order there, will, we feel assured, be voted with one generous and respectful accord, and with a hope springing from the heart of every Templar that he may be long spared to preside over our Councils and direct our chivalric career.

His address, just presented, is an illustration in itself of his high qualification for office, in the interest exhibited in existing Encampments in the case of the establishment of yet another, and in the firmness with which he has exercised his high, however painful prerogative of suspension.

The allusion to the removal by the hand of death of that distinguished mason and Templar V. E. Sir Kt. S. D. Fowler, so touchingly made by the Grand Prior is received with deep and melancholy emotion by Grand Conclave, who will feel it a duty to obey the injunction of the Grand Prior to pay an outward tribute of respect to the memory of one whose name and good works are engrafted on their hearts.

We echo cordially the counsel of the Grand Prior as to the necessity of the greatest caution being observed in the matter of the admission of candidates into the ranks of an order which in all ages has been distinguished for its orthodoxy of membership; for while, as he says, "there exists no desire or intention to make the order an exclusive or conservative club, neither is it surely desirable to admit as members those whose social position may unfit them as associates in private life,"—the slightest consideration will show the wisdom of this counsel.

We feel further that whatever may be the course of future events, the maintenance at present of a warm and zealous allegiance to the Grand Conclave of England should be regarded as "an article of faith," for surely while the illustrious Templar bodies in the United States are looking to the old land of the crusades, and penetrating her archives for material with which they may more perfectly mould and fashion American Templarism, we should be the last rightly to yield the right and prestige attaching to the Canada Branch, to profit by the efforts of the Parent Body to place the order on the highest pinnacle of chivalric perfection, and the concessions made on every occasion so courteously and gracefully by the Grand Conclave of England to every Canadian representation should be a further inducement, although the first named should be all sufficient to lead to the most courteous reciprocity of sentiment and attachment.

We are certain that Grand Conclave will cordially endorse the action of the Grand Prior in the appointment of a representative at the Grand Commandery of Ohio, and welcome with knightly courtesy V. E. Sir Kt. Babcock from that Grand Commandery, and in his further appointment of a Committee to represent this Grand Conclave at the triennial assembly of the General Grand Encampment of the United States to be held at Baltimore in September—Grand Conclave joining in the desire of the Grand Prior that the most fraternal relations may be fostered between the American and Canadian Templar Bodies.

In conclusion your Committee feel that Grand Conclave will receive with the highest respect and consideration the information so opportunely conveyed by the Grand