

M. E. Sir Knight John V. Ellis, Supreme Grand Master, then delivered the following

ADDRESS.

In the last year of the century, Frates, we meet in this old historic city of our Dominion to hold the seventeenth session of the Great Priory of the Order of the Temple in Canada. We greet each other as members of one great brotherhood, assembled under the banner of the Cross in the name of Him who gave up His life for the redemption of man. As by word and sign we welcome each other in this assembly let it be in the spirit of Christian fellowship, the result of a knowledge of our human equality and of our appreciation of the obligations which we owe to each other if we properly apply the teachings of our blessed Lord and Master who has revealed Himself to us as the Great Captain of our salvation, who gave up His life that we might all enjoy happy immortality.

Our meeting here this year is not a mere ordinary event or a coincidence. We have come deliberately because this year marks a century in the history and growth of the Order of the Temple in Canada. It is in a sense for us a centennial year. The oldest document of which we have knowledge so far as the Order in this Dominion is concerned is dated A.D. 1800, and was issued, according to Frater J. Ross Robertson whose historical researches have been so minute and so valuable, of date 31st October, 1800, to Christopher Danby, a prominent Mason at that time in this division or district of Canada. It was signed by Frederick Hershfeldt, as Grand Master, and John McGill, Recorder. I am told that this document is still in existence. Certainly a copy can be obtained and should be published with the Proceedings of this Annual Assembly. Its interest of it to us is in the proof which it affords that the Order was in actual existence in this country a hundred years ago. And it is also evidence