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GREAT PRIOR OF CANADA.

The Fourth Annual Assembly of the National Great Priory of Canada, was held in the British Masonic Chambers, Montreal, Que., on Friday, 10th October, 1879, the V. H. & E. Sir Kt. Col. W. J. B. Macleod Moore, Great Prior of the Dominion, on the Throne. Following is the Great Prior's address:—

FRATRES,—I feel that it is incumbent on me at once to enter into a subject which involves the future prosperity of the Templar Order in Canada, viz: The independent position of the "National Great Priory," and to set at rest the surmises and doubts prevalent about the matter. In our last proceedings I endeavored to explain the position we hold with the National Great Priors of England and Ireland, as a sort of federal alliance under the Grand Mastership of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales. There cannot be a question that the original object was to amalgamate the different branches of the Order in the British Dominions, and insure uniformity of ritual and usages, correcting the absurd errors which had crept into its ceremonial and history since its adoption by the Masonic body. This scheme, so ably devised by competent brethren of the Order, in which a "Convent General," composed of the three national bodies, was intended to conduct the general business, has not been found to work well in practice, from its absorbing too many individual interests in each of the nationalities, and the result of the frequent meetings of the "Convent General" has hitherto been to

afford opportunities for troublesome persons, to make changes, besides each nationality, being constrained by too many general rules had always something to find fault with, whereas if all had been left free the union would not have been felt as a fetter, but as a bond of unity. The inexpediency of holding annual "Convents General" had been foreshadowed for some time past, and they are now virtually discontinued; the fact is, each of the nationalities had been too long accustomed to complete supremacy to adopt easily a subordinate or co-subordinate position; it therefore became evident that the suggestions made by the Great Sub-Prior of England, in 1877, should be adopted to maintain even the semblance of a union; viz: "That each nationality should have full power to frame its own regulations in every way, but still remain under H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, who might hold triennial "Convents General," where subjects previously agreed upon by the three Great Priors would be formally passed, and where honors could be conferred, and each country be left free to adopt the line which it might think best." The wisdom of this advice has become apparent, and it has been tacitly adopted. I am in a position to say that this proposal met with the approval of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, who will continue as Grand Master under the new regime. The basis of our union, such as that union is, has been sufficiently settled by the general statutes, and by not varying these statutes, except on pre-arranged points, there is no doubt it will be thoroughly consolidated and lasting, and each nationality may in time be induced voluntarily to take a common view on most subjects.