

### Knights Templar.

To the Editor of THE CRAFTSMAN.

SIR,—I have just received from the Grand Chancellor the proceedings of the Great Priory for the present year, and as I observe that the next Annual Assembly will be held in Montreal, on the third Tuesday of October, 1882, it occurs to me that the time has arrived when a change should take place in Templarism in Canada. Why should the representatives of the Preceptories at Quebec, Stanstead and Montreal, in the Province of Quebec, be compelled to journey to Hamilton, Toronto or London to legislate on matters of interest to them, and the Preceptories at St. John and Halifax are virtually disfranchised under the present system of government? By referring to the proceedings of past years, it will be seen that Nova Scotia Preceptory, No. 5, Halifax, has never been represented in Great Priory by either its qualified officers or by proxy. Union de Molay, No. 11, St. Johns, New Brunswick, was represented in 1878 by Frater Marshall; in 1879, by Frater D. R. Munro, and in 1876, 1880, and 1881, they entrusted their destinies to the Grand Chancellor, as proxy. Sussex Preceptory, of Stanstead, has not been represented since its re-organization by any of its properly qualified officers. It is quite clear, therefore, that Templar legislation is attended to by a few, but not, I am glad to say, to the detriment of the many. This unsatisfactory state of matters is owing entirely to the desire of a few interested parties to have one governing body for the Knights Templar of the whole of this vast Dominion. I believe that the time has arrived when the Templars of Canada should deal with this matter in their own interest, without regard to opinions of those who have heretofore opposed what is clearly for the benefit of the Preceptories. With a desire, therefore, of having this subject discussed in a friendly spirit, I respect-

fully submit the following propositions for the consideration of my brother Templars, particularly those who have a strong regard for the Order of the Temple, and desire to infuse some life into it, so that it may be an honor and credit to all Canadian Knights Templar.

At the next meeting of Great Priory let permission be granted to the Preceptories in the several Provinces to assemble together in convocation by their duly appointed representatives, and establish a Grand Priory or Grand Encampment for each Province, as follows:—

The Grand Encampment of Ontario, with 17 Preceptories and 170 members.

The Grand Encampment of Quebec, with 3 Preceptories and 79 members.

The Grand Encampment of New Brunswick, with 3 Preceptories, viz: Union de Molay, and the Scottish Encampment at St. John, and St. Stephen.

The Scottish Templars would doubtless unite with their Canadian fratres for such a beneficial purpose. Nova Scotia Preceptory, Halifax, would probably be willing to unite with New Brunswick until such time as there were three Preceptories in that Province, when the Grand Encampment of New Brunswick could be formed. Albert Edward Preceptory, No. 24, Winnipeg, could be attached to Ontario, until the Templars of the Prairie Province were ready to have a separate state of existence. If the Preceptories of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are not ready for independence, they could unite with the Grand Encampment of Quebec, until such time as they desired to make other arrangements.

After this has been done, Great Priory should be dissolved, and consigned to the rubbish, as it has clearly failed to accomplish any useful purpose. This communication will lead to further correspondence, and I trust, Mr. Editor, you will kindly afford space in THE CRAFTSMAN for the discussion of this subject. At present I subscribe myself

ZETELIC.

October 24, 1881.