

PETITION FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREAT PRIORY.

Copy of Petition from the Great Prior of Canada, sent through the Arch Chancellor of Convent General, the Hon. Judge Townshend, of the Admiralty Court, Dublin, Ireland, to H. R. Highness, the Prince of Wales, as Supreme Grand Master of the Templar Order in England, &c., &c.

To His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, Supreme Grand Master of the United Orders of the Temple and Malta in England, Ireland; and Canada, &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS,—

I crave the honor, as Great Prior, on behalf of the National Great Priory of Canada, of the Order of the Temple, to lay before Your Royal Highness their loyal and humble address, setting forth the following matters in connection with the present status of the Order in this nationality:—

The said National Great Priory, at their annual assembly, held in 1882, appointed a special committee to take into consideration the question of the independence of the Order in the Dominion.

The revision of the Statutes of the Great Priory was at the same time resolved upon, and revised Statutes have been since prepared and adopted with a declaration establishing, and with such changes as were necessary to establish the authority of this Great Priory as supreme and independent over all Orders of the Temple and appendant degrees in Canada.

The special committee above named, in a report presented to the Great Priory at their annual assembly, held in the present year, unanimously recommended that the present humble address be presented to Your Royal Highness, praying that inasmuch as this Great Priory has unanimously declared in the revision of its Statutes its authority in and

throughout the Dominion of Canada over all bodies of the Order of the Temple and appendant degrees, Your Royal Highness will be graciously pleased to absolve the Great Priory, and all officers and members thereof, from their obligations of fealty to Your Royal Highness as Supreme Grand Master, so that this Great Priory may be enabled fully and without doubt to affirm and maintain the position which it has taken upon itself as an independent Great Priory of the Order of Knights Templar and appendant degrees; at the same time gratefully expressing their knightly obligations to Your Royal Highness and to Convent General for all the courtesies and favors which the officers and members of the Temple in the Dominion of Canada have hitherto received from Your Royal Highness, and from all the officers of the Order of the United Kingdom; and further, communicating their desire that the interjurisdictional relations of this new Sovereign Great Priory towards the sister Great Priors in England and Ireland, the Chapter General of Scotland, and the sister Grand Encampment of the United States of America, and the Grand Commanderries of the several States, and with all fratres throughout the world, may be more intimate and binding than heretofore.

The above statement, set forth with the authority of the Order in Canada, relieve me of much difficulty in approaching Your Royal Highness, and I have only to pray, on behalf of the great branch of the Order here established, that Your Royal Highness will graciously regard the grateful acknowledgments we herein endeavor to convey of past favors at the hands of Your Royal Highness as no mere words of formality, but as the fervent expressions of loyal Templars on approaching the august presence of one who has pleased to be for many years their Royal Grand Master, and who will, they feel assured, regarding their present re-