

small capitation tax, which would not press heavily, and so dispense with fees of office.

At present every member pays to the central authority an annual contribution of 3s. 6d. London Craft Lodges pay 4s., and County Lodges 2s., yet the class which belong to the latter are less able to pay the quarterages than the members of the Temple, who, in fact, contribute no more than Craft Masons. But as all existing rights are reserved, those who held this Past Grand Rank before the late Statutes still enjoy it, while those who have obtained Grand Rank since have done so with the full knowledge that it was an annual one.

To meet, however, any objection, the following motion was passed at the Great Prior's Council and incorporated in its Report to the Great Priory in May, 1875, and the Great Prior has given effect to it by giving notice of amendments for the next Convent General:

"That a limited restoration of rank is desirable: that such Past rank should only be given to Great Officers, National Great Officers, and Provincial Great Officers, and also to the Great, and National, and Provincial Vice-Chancellors, and Sub-Marshals, provided these latter officers have served *two years* in their respective ranks."

Some officers, indeed the majority of them, are purely nominal, others are permanent, and it would be unreasonable to suppose that such as have real duties to perform could be charged annually under such a system: the Order would fall into helpless confusion.

Lastly,—Many members will be surprised to learn that the changes now made were, in substance, advanced thirteen years ago.

Instead of the ranks of the Order being thinned as asserted, they have numerically increased, the best test of which is the greatly increasing number of certificates issued from the Chancery of the Order.

UNITED ORDERS OF THE TEMPLE AND HOSPITAL, DOMINION OF CANADA.

OFFICE OF THE GRAND VICE-CHANCELLOR,
TORONTO, 10th DECEMBER, 1875.

To The Great Officers, and Officers, The Grand Council, and the Eminent Preceptors of the several Preceptories under The Grand Priory of Canada.

VERY EMINENT AND EMINENT FRATRES:—I have the command of the V. H. and E. The Grand Prior, to communicate to you the gratifying intelligence, communicated in the kindest and most handsome terms by the Earl of Limerick, Great Prior of England, that His Lordship, presiding in Convent General in the absence in India of H. R. H. The Grand Master, had himself moved from the Throne the adoption of the Memorial of the Templars of Canada, praying to be erected into an independent National Great Priory co-equal with those of the immediate nationalities of the Empire, and that the same had been carried, not only unanimously, but with every manifestation of the kindest and best feeling towards the future Great Priory of Canada.

The Grand Prior feels assured that his tender of congratulations that our status as an independent organization, with the full maintenance of our loyalty to H. R. H. The Grand Master and the Convent General, has been thus honorably secured, will be cordially and heartily reciprocated.

In the event of its full purport not being readily remembered, and desiring that there may be a perfect understanding of the full independence of the status sought and acquired, I am further instructed to append a copy of the Memorial which has been the subject of such unanimous and complete approval by Convent General; (see Appendix A).

The next consideration on the part of the Grand Prior has been the necessity, under such happily changed circumstances, for calling an Emergent Assembly of the Grand Priory of Canada, (the name it must still retain until the arrival of the new Patent from H. R. H. the Grand Master), and on this head he has carefully considered the wishes of Grand Priory, as expressed at the Annual Assembly held at St. Catharines in August, which I am desired to quote as follows:

I. The following paragraph in the reply to his address:

"While feeling surprise that the meeting of Convent General has been so long delayed, they are glad to notice that its assembling has been definitely fixed for the 29th day of October, and that the Grand Prior has received assurances from the Earl of Limerick, Great Prior of England, that the matter will then be considered, and have his support, and they venture to express a hope that on an early day subsequent to—