

On the occasion of my visit to Palestine Preceptory, of Port Hope, I was accompanied by eighteen fratres from Toronto and Whitby. Our reception was cordial and enthusiastic. The Preceptory, presided over by Eminent Preceptor Craig, though not quite as good work as those I have already mentioned, was well equipped, largely attended, and showed signs of possibilities in the future which I hope will be realized during the coming winter. Mr predecessor, Right Eminent Frater J. B. Trayes, has been the life of this Preceptory, and his fraternal attention, together with those of his townsmen and the Brethren of our Order made the visit of myself and the fratres from Toronto and Whitby a most delightful occasion. A candidate was in waiting and assisted by the Toronto Knights the Port Hope fratres did the work exceedingly well, Eminent Knight N. T. Lyon presiding at the consecration in that impressive manner which has made Frater Lyon's work more pre-eminently noticeable in Toronto District than the work of any other Preceptor who has made a study of this part. There are many who do it well, there are none who, in my opinion, do it quite so well as the Frater to whom I have referred.

At Whitby, in St. John the Almoner Preceptory, No. 15, Frater Lyon also assisted me in exemplifying the work, the candidate being present and the local Fratres doing everything in their power to make the evening pleasant and memorable. The work in Whitby is not such that I can congratulate Great Priory upon the present or indulge in any great hopefulness for the future. The material is not there to make a successful Preceptory. The membership is small, and though, like every other Preceptory in the district over which I have the honor to preside, it is out of debt and thoroughly self-supporting, it wields no great influence and should be united with some larger body where it would prove a valuable acquisition, while now it is barely able to sustain itself. Those who make up the membership of St. John the Almoner Preceptory are men of influence and high standing, but they cannot do the work, have but few candidates, and the only life that is infused into them seems to be when visiting Brethren go in sufficiently large force to properly conduct the ceremonies of initiating a candidate to swell the number of members who meet to a sufficient extent to make them feel that they are not merely a few gathered together to keep the Preceptory from becoming dormant.

Most Eminent Sir, I do not believe that Preceptories in small places are an advantage to the Order or to those who become members thereof. If we establish our noble Order properly in the large