

Branches, with the subsequent adhesion of Canada, should have been carried out.

It was manifest that our Brethren in the United States, for political reasons, would not acknowledge the supremacy of the Prince of Wales, and their totally different system of Templary would have prevented any amalgamation. The final collapse of the Union was the result of the infelicitous step of calling the special and last meeting of "Convent General" on the 8th Dec., 1876, when with the surrender then made, by its undoubted illegal proceedings, (which called forth our protest), and the opposition shown to the Irish members, broke the frail thread that kept it together.

Any one acquainted with the discussion that took place at the time, must admire the remarkably discreet and correct Masonic feeling of the Irish members throughout, during the determined opposition shown against their views. From these circumstances, it cannot but be admitted that the disruption of "Convent General" is mainly owing to the prejudices of a section of the English members; and, perhaps, not improbably, to some conflicting interests, associated with the more popular and *exclusive* high grade system in England.

Apart from all other considerations, "Convent General" has achieved one great object by promulgating a correct knowledge of the Order, and introducing a *strict historical* rendering of the Ritual, from which nearly all objectionable features have been expunged. We are principally indebted for this to the untiring zeal and exertions of one of the Irish members of the Ritual Commission. The eminent Bro. "Richard Barker de Burgh," Grand Cross of the Temple, and Past Grand Chancellor of the Great Priory of Ireland, who had been from the commencement of the negotiations for the consolidation of the Order, appointed representative of the Irish section of the Committee, with full power to act for them, and make arrangements with that of England, to whom he submitted a draft ritual, which, being subsequently amended in some parts, was adopted, and the report drawn up and signed by the Committee, whose names are a sufficient guarantee of its being well and thoroughly considered by men of judgment and education.

REORGANIZATION OF "CONVENT GENERAL."

I see no reason why "Convent General" cannot be revived as a separate and distinct body, at any time, with amended regulations, more suitable to the original status and character of the Order; still

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