

THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN,

AND
MASONIC RECORD.

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Editor & Proprietor.

"The Queen and the Craft."

{ \$1.50 per annum
in advance.

VOL. XX. PORT HOPE, ONT., FEBRUARY 15, 1886. No. 2.

THE SOVEREIGN GREAT PRIORY OF CANADIAN AND N. B. ENCAMPMENTS UNDER SCOTLAND.

The New Brunswick Templars' Statement of their Position.

The Encampment of St. John, of the Order of the Temple, holding of the Chapter-General of Scotland, and stationed at the city of St. John, in the Province of New Brunswick, Dominion of Canada, is required by recent movements in Canada to place before its fratres everywhere a statement of its position.

It desires to do this in the true spirit of fraternity, and it does not desire, in what it has to say, to weaken in any way the ties of affection which should everywhere unite the members of a great, chivalric brotherhood.

The Encampment of St. John was founded by a warrant issued on the 4th day of October, A. D. 1856, A. O. 738, by the Great Priory or Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of Scotland, of which the Most Eminent John Whyte Melville, of Bennochy and Straithkinness, was Master and Grand Prior, and which Great Priory was subsequently merged into and became the Chapter-General of the Order for Scotland, with Frater Melville as Grand Master. No question has ever been raised—none can ever be raised—as to the legality of its foundation.

The Province of New Brunswick was at that time, and for twelve years afterwards, a Province of the British Empire, whose Lieutenant Governor was appointed by Her Britannic Majesty. The Province has since entered the Canadian Confederation, and is a Province of that Confederation. The political situation does not, however, affect the matter herein referred to.

When the Encampment of St. John was founded, there was in the Province an Encampment of Knights Templar stationed at the town of St. Andrew, and held under the authority of the Grand Encampment of High Knights Templar of Ireland, which body ceased to exist when the lodge and chapter at that place, held under Irish authority, surrendered their warrants.

Subsequently, in the year 1872, an Encampment, called the "Encampment of St. Stephen," was founded at the town of St. Stephen, also under Scottish authority, and that Encampment is still in existence.

Afterwards, or about the same period, an Encampment was formed in this city, under the authority of the Grand Conclave of England.

Many years before the Encampment of St. John was established in New Brunswick, a Scottish Encampment was instituted at Halifax, in Nova Scotia, and it existed for a long period, but it subsequently surrendered its warrant, and received one from the Grand Conclave of England.

It will thus be seen that, following the course adopted as respects both lodges and chapter, the Grand Bodies in Ireland, Scotland and England, considered this, and indeed all the Provinces of British North America, common ground on which they could plant subordinate bodies alongside of each other.

In the Province of Canada, there were, in the year 1855, three Encampments of Knights Templar—one at Toronto, one at Kingston, and one at Quebec; and these subsequently were united for local purposes into a Provincial Grand Conclave, under the distinguished Frater Colonel McLeod Moore, as Provincial Grand Commander for Canada, who held his authority from Colonel Kemys Tynte, Master of the Order of the Temple in England. Frater Moore's authority, as Representative of the Grand Master in England, was confined solely to the English Templars in the then Province of Canada. He had no control over the Irish branch of the Order, of which one or two Encampments then existed in Canada, nor had he a delegated authority, or any authority whatever, in the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The Honorable Alexander Keith was soon afterwards appointed Pro-