

KNIGHTS TEMPLARISM IN ENGLAND.

IMPORTANT ACTION OF THE GRAND CONCLAVE.

We have received the annual report of the Grand Conclave of the Knights Templar of England, held in London, December 13, 1872, presided over by Sir and Rev. John Huyshe, D. G. Master. Thirty-six Commanderies were represented. Sir Wm. Stuart tendered his resignation as Grand Master, in order that the Prince of Wales might be elected Grand Master, in accordance with the statutes of the Convent General.

These statutes were presented by the Commissioners, who had introduced some very extraordinary provisions, which were repugnant to many members, as well as they will be to us on this side of the Atlantic, as will be seen by the following :

The Provincial Grand Commander for Kent, Sir Knight General Clerk, then moved the following amendment :

"That the report of the Committee be adopted with the exception of those portions referring to the statutes of the Convent General ; and that—

"1. Seeing that these statutes contain many rules fundamentally contrary to the statutes of the Conclave of England and Wales and the Dependencies of the British Crown, this Grand Conclave can not and does not accept them, but refers them back to the Commissioners for revision.

"2. This Grand Conclave requests that in revising these statutes, the following points be kept in view :

"(a.) That the Masonic character of the Institution be maintained in name as well as in spirit.

"(b.) That the Grand Priory of England retain, as at present, the power of electing its own Grand Prior, and of making rules for its governance.

"(c.) That the "Royal Arch" qualification of a candidate must be retained.

"(d.) That these Statutes, when revised, be submitted to Grand Conclave for approval, previous to being ratified by the Grand Master."

He observed that he had agreed to the paragraph in the report at the meeting of the Committee, because it was stated that the proposed statutes made no material alterations in the internal organization of the Order, and also because the letter of the Grand Vice-Chancellor, accompanying the copy of the Statutes forwarded to him, made the same statement ; but upon reading the Statutes carefully, he considered some of the changes made were so fundamental that he could in no wise assent to them. He considered that in drawing up the Statutes of the Convent General, the Commissioners had exceeded the powers entrusted to them by the Grand Conclave on the 13th of December, 1871. That in the title of the Order, the word "Masonic" had been omitted, while