

Division. comprising Kingston and all preceptories east of the River Trent; the Central Division, comprising Toronto and all preceptories west of the River Trent: the Western Division, comprising Hamilton and all preceptories west of the Credit River. These, with a separate District for Quebec, and another for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, make a present partition of Canada into five Districts to be increased, with the addition of further preceptories requiring additional supervision.

I have prepared a charge to be delivered to the Provincial Priors, setting forth at some length the duties of their high office. In a Dominion of such vast territorial extent as Canada, it can only be by a distribution of authority that a due supervision can be maintained. In their several Districts or Divisions the Provincial Priors represent the authority of the Grand Prior, and the subordinate Preceptories are not so numerous but that by a comparatively small sacrifice of time all may be occasionally visited, and the regularity of the work, the observance of the statutes, and a greater interest in the Order, prompted both by example and precept, I am sure these administrative officers will thus give me their hearty co-operation in my endeavor to lay the foundations of our Grand Priory on such true principles, that it may prove worthy of its approaching high position of being erected into a National Great Priory, co-equal with those of the mother land—this charge is printed as an Appendix to my address.

I regret to find that some of our Preceptories have failed to make their returns, namely: The "King Baldwin," Belleville, "Moore," Peterborough, "Mount Calvary," Orillia, "Palestine," Port Hope, and "Richard Cœur de Lion," London, while the "Harington," of Trenton, is under virtual suspension—it is to be hoped this neglect has been or will be at once attended to—it will be one of the subjects, as well as many others calculated to uphold the credit as well as the interest of all, which will fall under the supervision of the Provincial Priors.

I lately granted a preliminary warrant to open a Preceptory at the village of Dunnville, Ontario, under the name of the "St. Bernard de Clairveaux," in the district of the Grand Chancellor, who constituted the preceptory and installed as Eminent Preceptor Sir Kt. W. H. Braund, with every prospect of its being a flourishing addition to the Order.

On the 23rd of January last I granted a dispensation to remove the Sussex Preceptory and Priory of Stanstead to the village of Dunham, Province of Quebec, when I consecrated the Preceptory and installed as F. Preceptor Sir Kt. Edson Kemp.

By-laws for this latter Preceptory have been carefully got up and printed, after having been subjected to the most thorough revision, in which all the recent changes in the Order are embodied, with directions for the duty of the Registrar and the requirements of aspirants (candidates). I strongly recommend these By-laws to the notice of Preceptors, as I regret to find there appears to be a want of interest shown in details, many of the preceptories still adhering to old forms and names, although I had hoped the circular issued in April, 1873, had fully explained the changes now become law. From some instances that have come under my notice, the statutes of the Order do not appear to have been fully complied with, and in one Preceptory a most irregular and improper proceeding took place, viz., after the ballot had been twice passed and the candidate rejected, it was directed by the Preceptor to be passed a third time, thus leaving an impression that it had been previously arranged by every means to insure the election against the express desire of some of the members. By such proceedings the Order becomes discredited, and from want of a judicious and proper selection sinks in value and opinion, as it frequently happens that it is bestowed without any kind of reasonable motive or due consideration, but solely to content idle curiosity or for the sake of good fellowship. The popular view taken would seem to be, that, as Freemasonry is a public institution, we have no right to refuse any one who comes with fair credentials. This is a great fallacy. The Order of the Temple, necessarily circumscribed in numbers, is a select brotherhood, and we have no right to admit into it those whom we would not willingly introduce into our own family.

The ceremony of constituting a preceptory and the installation of officers and of opening and closing preceptories I have had re-arranged, with the able assistance of the "Sub-Prior," and the proper steps will be taken for their distribution to the heads of the Order, for the information of all the members.

My correspondence during the past year with various portions of the Order in England, Ireland, and the United States has been most satisfactory, and testifies to the interest taken everywhere in the advancement of our Christian Orders. While all do not hold the same views, and many consider that the adoption of exclusive principles on social grounds, and the requiring from Candidates a profession of Trinitarianism, are antagonistic to its connection with Freemasonry, it must be born in mind that these Orders are strictly Christian, and based upon the leading doctrines of the Christian religion; it surely ought to be the pride of all its members to raise, not lower the social standard, and to maintain the Order within its proper sphere, not by endeavoring