

in England is under consideration, when therefore we see our neighbouring *Fratres* looking to the mother country in the matter, why should we seek, but an imaginary gain, by forming an independent body in Canada, which could only hold a very second-class position in the eyes of the Templar world. I shall therefore request that a committee be formed of Commanders and Past Commanders to take into consideration and deliberate upon such questions and proposals as may be thought expedient for the future well being and interest of the Canadian Order. I myself will propose, "That the Templars in the Dominion, be empowered to elect one of their number duly qualified every three years to hold office as the governing head of the Canadian branch." Thus, by my retirement, allowing all Canadian Templars to participate in and aspire to the highest office, knowing that there are many amongst you equally zealous and competent to fill the high position I have had the honor to hold for so many years, and my object will be gained of promoting in every way the advancement and interests of the order in Canada.

In conclusion, officers and members of this Grand Priory, allow me to express my sincere and grateful acknowledgement to you all (and which I trust you will convey to the members of your Encampments,) with whom I have been so long in communion, for your constant courtesy, and uniform kindness and tokens of fraternal regard on many occasions, as also your co-operation in carrying out my suggestions for the prosperity of the Order. It is with feelings of pride that I look back to to having been the first to introduce in a constitutional manner, this Christian Order into Canada some sixteen years ago. I say, advisedly "first introduced," for although about forty years ago, an Encampment held for some little time a languid existence in the city of Kingston, attached to the St. John's Lodge and Ancient Frntenac Royal Arch Chapter, it was not placed under any of the governing Templar bodies, being formed by the self constituted authority of the Superintendent of Royal Arch Masonry for Canada West.

In the far famed Island of Malta I was also the first to introduce Templar Masonry, having in 1849 when stationed there with my regiment, established the "*Melita*" Encampment, and in the following year obtained a warrant of confirmation from the supreme Grand Conclave of England. This Encampment has enrolled amongst its members many of our military and naval fratres, one of whom, I may mention, as a distinguished Brother of the "*ancient and accepted rite*," Captain N. G. Philips, Grand Treasurer General, of the Sup. Grand Council 33° for England.

In the year 1852 I personally received at *Grand Conclave*, from the late venerated Grand Master Colonel Kemys K. Tynte, the office of Second Grand Captain, and am now, with the exception of the Deputy