

being all that was necessary, that the creation of a third would but still further embarrass and retard a movement for the concentration of our forces and the institution of a large and influential Preceptory. I am glad to say, Most Eminent Sir, and it is with pardonable pride that I say it, that my efforts to effect an amalgamation of Odo and Geoffrey Preceptories was successful, the union taking place without a dissenting voice, and nine months having elapsed since the amalgamation it is pleasant to be able to report that no dissensions have arisen amongst the brethren who united in what is now Geoffrey de St. Aldemar, No. 2. I only regret that I was unable to prevent the creation of what was then the third Preceptory in Toronto, and that, notwithstanding the amalgamation, we still have two, while I can assure you, R. Eminent Sir, there is room for but one.

In speaking thus, I do not disparage the progress of Geoffrey de St. Aldemar, for having been a frequent visitor of this largest, strongest and most important Preceptory in the Dominion, I can assure you that it is in an exceedingly healthy condition, has over one hundred and twenty-five members,—an equipment which is rivalled by nothing, Sir, in the Dominion,—does its work as well if not better than any other in the Templar degrees, has a membership which is enthusiastic and united, and is, in fact, a body in every respect of which the Great Priory of Canada has reason to be proud.

Nor do I intend to slight Cyrene Preceptory, No. 29, of Parkdale, which was instituted some two years ago, and which has now 52 members, and though the expense necessary to procuring the properties for the proper exemplification of the degrees was considerable, it is in a flourishing financial condition inasmuch as in its infancy it is out of debt and apparently has an excellent future. When I visited it, I saw the work of consecration creditably done by Eminent Preceptor Mansell. The attendance was large, though it was a rainy night, and I beg to acknowledge the courtesy of the fratres present. I visited the Mount Calvary Preceptory, No. 12, Barrie, in company with Eminent Preceptor R. L. Patterson, of Odo, and R. E. Frater Traves, Palestine, Port Hope, and we were met with a right royal welcome. In the home of Grand Chancellor Spry it was not surprising to find the Preceptory in an exceedingly healthy and aggressive condition. Eminent Preceptor MacWatt did the work in initiation, exaltation and consecration, and I must compliment him on the remarkable memory he evinced, not a word of the ritual being omitted or misplaced, while the solemn effects and elocution of these beautiful degrees were not neglected. The Preceptory is well equipped, is financially sound, the membership is composed of the leading men of the place.