

ADDRESS:

Fratres of the National Great Priory of Canada, —

By the mercy of Divine Providence we are again permitted to meet in annual conclave on this the sixth (6th) anniversary of our Templar Nationality, and twenty-seventh (27th) of the introduction by me of the Order from England into Canada. I may now congratulate you that your long-cherished wish for "Home Rule" has become fully realized, "Convent General" as a representative body having for all practical purposes ceased to exist; at the same time it is impossible not to regret that the admirable scheme of a "Convent General," to organize a Templar Order worthy of the name, did not meet with that support it unquestionably deserved, and that the time and labor of years employed for its accomplishment should have been almost thrown away, with the opportunity lost that will never probably again present itself.

Our connection with England, which it was hoped since the memorial sent to "Grand Conclave" in 1873, would at least have been maintained in theory, at all events, appears to be well-nigh at an end, and Sir Patrick Colquhoun's efforts to establish a United Order in the three Kingdoms seems to possess as little reality. This, however, is no fault of ours, "Convent General" not having assembled once a year, as required by the Statutes, has "ipso facto" dissolved itself, thus leaving each Nationality free to adopt whatever course they consider best for their own interests; although I maintain that as a National Great Priory, we were always independent, having the full powers of a Federal body, subject only to the combined action that bound the whole Union.

It now appears questionable whether a "Convent General" should ever have been formed, even with the prestige of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales. It was composed of too conflicting elements, and matters were not ripe for the radical changes contemplated by the new Statutes. The idea of one cosmopolitan Order as of old, with a Supreme Grand Master, was a grand conception of the originator, Sir Patrick Colquhoun, but the material to work it was wanting. We can now look back more calmly and dispassionately, than perhaps we could at the time, to his ennobling views for the Order, and we may well add our sympathy for what to him must have been a great disappointment.

The secession of Scotland at an early period of the negotiations, rendered it doubtful whether the union of the English and Irish