

doing so, and I had to delegate that pleasure to the Provincial Priors,—to whom the duty properly belongs.

OBITUARY.

With but one exception, no reports have been sent to me that the "King of Terrors" had visited the obedience of this Sovereign Great Priory since our last annual conclave; in this instance, we have to mourn the death of Frater † Joshua G. Burns, of Toronto, which took place there, on the 28th May last, in the forty-fourth year of his age, of that dread scourge consumption. Our Brother was of Irish birth, and had served in the United States army as an officer in the late rebellion; he was a Past Grand "Vice Chancellor" of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, a zealous and worthy brother, much esteemed and loved, and will long be remembered in the hearts of those who knew him well. I would also wish to pay the last sad tribute of respect to the memory of a highly respected Templar brother of our sister jurisdiction in the United States,—Frater † Theodore T. Gurney, of Illinois—who at our last Grand Conclave visited the Great Priory of Canada. I shall ever retain the most kindly recollections of pleasing correspondence with him on Templar matters, and was much impressed with his high Masonic principles and views. A communication has been also received from the Grand Commandery of Texas, announcing the death of Past Grand Commander John C. McCoy, who died in the city of Dallas, on the 30th of April last, in the sixty-eighth year of his age, honored and respected. May our brethren "Rest in peace until the Resurrection Morn."

HISTORICAL DISSERTATION ON TEMPLAR RITUALS AND THEIR
MASONIC CONNECTION.

It is not my intention to enter into any discussion about the history and merits of "Freemasonry," nor of the numerous side degrees and Rites that come under the category of the "*High Grade*" system. These latter I do not consider genuine Masonry, many of them being more like the Pagan Philosophy of the ancient sages, and from the intense feelings of bitterness engendered amongst them of late years by the rivalry of contending bodies, asserting claims to greater antiquity and authenticity, all feelings of brotherly love and consideration appear to be eradicated. My object is to show that *true* Templary is *purely* Christian, and in no way a part of *Universal* Masonry.