

its intention was peace on earth, and its disposition good-will towards all men. It taught loyalty towards the nation as well as towards God, and benevolence towards mankind. Its fundamental principles were belief in God and the brotherhood of man. The rev. gentleman pointed out in a lucid manner the principles inculcated by the gavel, 24-inch rule, square, compasses and other symbols of the Order. He believed it to be the grandest of human institutions, and if carried on properly would do an inestimable amount of good. He stood as a clergyman of the Church of England, and declared that it enabled a man to exercise a wonderful influence for good, and yet he was bound to tell his hearers that it could not save their souls. It was but a system of morality. He showed that its secrecy was but a power for good and nothing more. And those persons who opposed it on those grounds had secrets which did not perhaps accomplish so good an end. In a clear manner he pointed out the evils which had crept into the Order, and, in a word, administered to his brethren a lecture, replete with warning and good advice. He referred to the immense amount of money the Order had expended during the past year for benevolent purposes, and concluded by charging the Masons in the pews to guard well their principles, and in the end be able to hear those brightest of sentences, "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joys of thy Lord." A liberal collection was then taken up in aid of the Benevolent Fund of the Order. After the service the brethren re-formed and returned to the Hall.

From Plymouth, England, *Mercury*.]

The Royal Princes and the Order of Knights Templar.

SIR,—Among your miscellaneous telegrams in yesterday's paper you announce that the Duke of Connaught and Prince Leopold were on Saturday installed Knights of the Temple and

Malta, Lord Skelmersdale, Great Prior of the Order, being present.

As the Duke of Connaught is now Great Prior of England, and was installed some years since as a Knight Templar, and has since been made a Knight Grand Cross of the Order, a dignity he shares with the Emperor of Germany and the Crown Prince of Sweden, Prince John of Glucksburg, and other princely potentates; as Prince Leopold is, if I mistake not, a Preceptor of the Temple, I venture to think there is some error in the intelligence given. The fact is, I believe, that the two princes were installed Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes, and Malta, on Saturday, at the Studholm Priory of the Order.

It is necessary that all Knights of Malta should be Freemasons and Knights Templar—but it does not always follow that all Templars also join the Malta Order—though they are now under one head as the United Orders of the Temple and Hospital. The Prince of Wales is Grand Master, and the chief governing body is styled the Convent General, which meets in London. There are also National Great Priories for England and Wales, of which Lord Skelmersdale is Great Prior, and numbering 3,000 Knights. Ireland, of which the Duke of Connaught is Great Prior; and Canada, of which Colonel MacLeod Moore, Knight Grand Cross, is Great Prior. All these bodies owe allegiance to the Prince of Wales and Convent General. The Order in Scotland is governed by a Chapter General, and has its own Grand Master, and it is hoped the day is not far distant when it will join Convent General under the heir to the throne. The English Order, or Anglican *langue* of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, has nothing to do with the Masonic Order, but is a very worthy charitable society, whose example we might follow with profit.

Your obedient servant,

ENNA HOLMES, K.C.T.,

Hon. Prov. Prior of Canada.

Fowey, Cornwall, Dec. 15, 1879.