

APPENDIX B.

A SYNOPSIS OF THE ORDER.

Established in Canada West (now Ontario), in 1858, the Order was there attended with remarkable success for a few years, spreading over into the adjoining Province of Canada East (now Quebec), and through the agency of N. C. Gowan, Esq., extending in 1864 to New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia. At first its name and constitution were of too limited a character to meet the advanced views of many, and hence change succeeded change, until it has at length become almost a new structure. But sad to say, all these changes were not brought about in the most peaceful and harmonious manner. On the contrary, discord at one time seemed almost to threaten the overthrow of the whole fabric. These difficulties caused probably by too hasty legislation in some instances, are happily at an end, it is sincerely hoped. The result of the differences of opinion was serious to the Order in Ontario, and all but fatal in Quebec; but the amicable adjustment arrived at by the Convention held in St. John, N. B., on the 2d and 3d of August, 1866, has blended some twenty-five or thirty thousand British Templars under one governing head, leaving a mere fragment disunited. This remnant we hope to find working side by side with us, and willing next year, at the latest, to become one in action, as well as in aim and principle.

The Order, as at present constituted, consists of five Grades of Lodges—the Juvenile, composed of members between the ages of 6 and 16, together with four Adult Officers from the next higher grade; the Primary, embracing members, male and female, not less than 14 years of age. These two Grades form the basis of the others, and they are supported by the Initiation fees and Quarterly dues paid by the members. The County Lodges have immediate supervision over the Primary Lodges, and ultimate controul over the Juvenile Lodges, and they are composed of Representatives from these lower Grades, and supported by a tax on the membership under their jurisdiction. The Worthy Grand Lodges claim jurisdiction over the three lower Grades within the Province, Colony or Dependency in which they are severally located. These are composed of Representatives from the County and Primary Lodges, and derive their revenue from a direct tax upon the membership of Primary Lodges, from Charter Fees, and the profits on the sale of Stock. The Most Worthy Grand Lodge—the governing head of the whole—consists of Representatives from the lower Grades (except the lowest), and is supported by a tax paid by Worthy Grand Lodges, by Charter fees, and capitation paid by Primary Lodges not under the controul of a Worthy Grand Lodge, and by profits on Stock.

The Juvenile and Primary Lodges meet weekly, fortnightly, or monthly, and their funds are usually expended in the purchase of stock, regalia, furniture, &c., in renting or the erection of Halls, and in payment of capitation. The County Lodges meet quarterly, the Worthy Grand Lodges and Most Worthy Grand Lodge annually; and these Grades elect their Officers once a year. The money paid to these Lodges is used to defray the expenses of certain Officers, of printing and publishing, of lecturers, &c.