

MASONIC HALL, Charlottetown, Sept. 1, 1873.

*Most Worthy Grand Chief:*

With devout feelings of gratitude to the Great Father whose blessing has rendered this organization a joy to many hearts; a light to eyes redeemed from the blinding influences of vicious indulgence; a refuge to long out-cast wanderers, and a tower of protection to weak and weary ones, your Committee on the State of the Order congratulate this M. W. G. Lodge on the encouraging experiences of the past and the hopeful indications of the future as justified by the facts and figures contained in the reports of your M. W. G. Officers.

Without recurring further to items of detail, as regards the state of our Order, its progress and prospects in those portions of our jurisdiction where the Order has secured a firm establishment, it is sufficient to recognize the encouraging certainties and pass on to the consideration of some more speculative but not the less important matters. But before doing so it is but just to record that while all the Provinces within our jurisdiction on this continent have done well, preserving, amid much of difficulty and opposition, the onward march, New Brunswick still maintains her claim to the motto, *Dirige*.

Newfoundland has been sadly disappointed and the growth of our Order restrained owing to unexplained causes. In correspondence with your M. W. G. C. by officials in Newfoundland, complaints have been made as follows: Under date March 5, 1873, W. G. Secretary, Stirling, presents charges of neglect against past and present M. W. G. Secretaries, and complaints of not having received any satisfactory communications. That the neglect has grown from bad to worse until, owing to this fact, British Templars, disgusted, have gone over to the I. O. G. T. That they had paid for a G. L. Charter and have not received it; ordered a seal and no notice taken.

August 10. D. M. W. G. C. T., Gusher, reiterates the charges of neglect, states that two years had elapsed since money for Charter was sent and Charter not yet received; that they had received no passwords or any other word for 7 months. That the present M. W. G. Secretary, in the *British Templar* newspaper, directed all who wished to open new Lodges to apply to Mr. Stewart, who had then been successfully engaged for some time in establishing Lodges of I. O. G. T., and, by misrepresentation, inducing British Templars to desert that organization for the former, and charges upon the M. W. G. Secretary, to a great extent, the present unfortunate position of the Order.

In reply to these charges and statements the M. W. G. Secretary says: He has had but one letter from Newfoundland since last meeting of the M. W. G. Lodge: this letter is dated 23rd May, 1873, and contains no charges or reflections.

He never received any Charter fee from Newfoundland, and knows nothing as to that matter.

The seal was obtained as soon as possible after the order was received, and was forwarded in March, 1873. The passwords he had sent regularly, including that for the present quarter.

The statement that he directed parties to apply to Mr. Stewart when they wanted to open new Lodges, he positively denies, and refers to the correspondence in the *British Templar* to prove the charge unfounded.

Whatever the causes, we meet the evident fact that, in Newfoundland, we have forfeited the opportunity of entering as pioneers, with glowing prospects of great success upon a most inviting field of temperance labor, and your Committee recommend that those who shall be elected the chief