

G. L. OF CLARENCE AND RICHMOND, NEW SOUTH WALES.

LISMON, Richmond.

Very few of our members in the U. S. can realize the difficulties that beset their brethren in these far distant lands in their efforts to carry out the work of our Order, and maintain its integrity. Ever since the mistaken course pursued by Malin & Co. was followed by those then holding office in the Grand Lodge of New South Wales, (who not content with seceding from the Order, took care to appropriate the name and property of the G. L., have persistently tried to deprive us of our true standing and our good name) there has been a constant warfare kept up, by them offensive, by us defensive,—which has to a great extent kept back the cause of temperance, wherever the two orders came in contact.

In 1876 we had but one Lodge in this district, No. 28. By vote the lodge remained loyal; in 1879 several more were organized through the instrumentality of its members, and in '82 ten Lodges were in active operation. Application was then made to the Grand Lodge, of New South Wales, for consent to organize a duplicate G. L., and on the 13th of October of that year the Clarence and Richmond G. L. was organized by Bro. Lemuel Griggs, D. W. G. T., who was the father of the temperance movement in this district.

Several Lodges of the Good Templars of the world have been organized, and after the organization of our Grand Lodge then the G. L. of New South Wales made a special effort to counteract our influence, and have since succeeded in destroying several of our Lodges.

Our annual session should have been held on Good Friday, but owing to the inclemency of the weather, there was not a quorum of Lodges, and the G. L. will meet at the call of the Executive. We have a severe struggle before us to make our influence felt in the community, while a rival Order claims our position. We trust, however, to live down all slander and opposition. Temperance sentiment is a long way behind that of the United States. We have a library in connection with our G. L. from which books are issued to our Lodges, in parcels and changed about once a quarter. It is supported by a subscription of 3d per annum collected by such Lodges and also by donations. This year we intend distributing temperance literature as far as possible as being the most effectual way of educating the community to the Good Templar standard on the strong drink question. With national greetings I am in F. H. and C.

Yours truly,

J. P. WALKER, G. W. C. T.

R. W. G. L. Official Circular.

EDITOR OF THE "NORTHERN SIGNAL" TO THE LODGES.

Have your lodge-room clean and tidy. See to it that the janitor sweeps the floor, and fills and cleans the lamps for every session.

What is the use of drawing out discussions on unimportant subjects? It is very tiresome to common mortals to listen to a man talk just to hear himself, with nothing to say.

Remember, fellow-workers, the greatest curse of this nation is the traffic you oppose. If that is true, then the grandest work you can engage in, already claims your efforts, viz.: the work of exterminating this traffic. Push on!

Get your lodge-room open in time. Do not be fifteen minutes late in this matter. It will hurt the attendance. In this age people don't like to wait. They must rush. Let your lodge-room be open to meet the push and spirit of the people.

The way officers stumble through the impressive and beautiful parts of our rituals is a shame upon them and brings disgrace upon the Order. The noble, inspiring sentiments contained in our books are worthy of some attention and study. Try to improve in this matter.

The place of the Worthy Secretary is indeed worthy and important. The proceedings of the lodge are among its chief features. To have a poorly-kept record of any kind, indeed, is a hinderance to the growth and perpetuity of Good Templary. See that your minutes are properly recorded and preserved.

We are too long in our initiations. They should be shortened up in some way; not by any curtailing of the Ritualistic ceremonies

but by the dispatch with which we can do the work. Quick, accurate and dignified work is what is wanting in this part of our Lodge ceremonies.

The ancients used to think the owl was the wisest of birds, until it opened its mouth; then their opinion was changed. This is true with some of the members. I would be very much in favor of some people if they were dumb or else kept still. The mouth will betray you. Guard it!

Not half the members of the lodge sing those odes on the cards they are holding up before their faces. They are listless, looking about, or what not. This should not be. Let the W.C.T. call the attention of the members to this matter of singing. Music has won victories!

Keep your regalia on, and stand motionless in your places, until the gavel comes down for adjournment—for you seem, otherwise, too much like many who in church services, commence to hunt their hats and put on their overcoats before the benediction.

Be sure your cordiality and kindness to your new members do not cease with the night of initiation. Greet them at the next meeting also, with a cordial handshake, a good word of cheer, hope that they have conquered during the week all temptations to drink. Give them all needed information, as far as you can, and make them perfectly at home.

How is it about your DUES? Have you promptly met your obligation in this regard? Do not let your name be impugned. Regard your standing with yourself. Pay all you owe, and do so in such a way as to make you respect yourself.

We need money, and you have obligated yourself to do your share in this one.—*Rescue*.

GOOD TEMPLARS PLATFORM.

It is proper to repeat our creed occasionally, and while the weather is warm, and politics is still warmer, it will do no harm to say over our platform a few times. To aid poor memories we give it here entire:

- I. Total abstinence from all intoxicating liquors as a beverage.
- II. No license in any form, under any circumstance, for the sale of liquor to be used as a beverage.
- III. The absolute prohibition of the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors for such purposes, prohibition by the will of the people, expressed in due form of law, with the penalties deserved for a crime of such enormity.
- IV. The creation of healthy public opinion on the subject, by the active dissemination of truth in all the modes known to enlightened philanthropy.
- V. The election of good, honest men to administer the laws.
- VI. Persistence in efforts to save individuals and communities from so dreadful a scourge, against all forms of opposition and difficulties, until our success is complete and universal.
- VII. That admission to membership in the Order goes on the idea of privilege and not right, rights not attaching until after admission.
- VIII. That all mankind are equally privileged to apply for membership in the Order, and all may be admitted who can pass the ballot in subordinate lodges, and the chartering power of the grand lodges, and only those.
- IX. That the question of race, language and nationality, have nothing to do with the membership in our Order, there being in the fundamental principles underlying the Order no discrimination for one or against the one or the other, all standing alike in matters of privilege outside or inside the Order.—*Official Organ*.

Bro. J. G. Thrower, the enthusiastic G.W.C.T., of Georgia, says: "We have initiated since the introduction of the Order in Georgia, about 130,000 members. Is it any wonder, with our pledge of total abstinence and our platform of total prohibition thoroughly inducted into the heart and mind of each member, that the state is now reaping the fruit of that teaching by voting out the legalized traffic? Our state is being gradually redeemed from the traffic through our local option law. Over two-thirds of the State is now thus under prohibition, and I may say that two-thirds of that work has been done by the Good Templars."