

J. O. Good Templars.

TRUTH is the Official Organ of the Grand Lodge of Canada, I. O. G. T. Items of information in regard to the Temperance work everywhere always thankfully received by the Editor, T. W. Casey, G. W. S. TRUTH office, Toronto.

NEWS FROM LODGES.

COL. HECKMAN.—In a private letter recently received from Bro. Keens, R.W.G. he writes:—Col. Heckman is now in Texas, building up that weak Grand Lodge, and he will go from there to Arkansas and Mississippi for the same purpose. We shall make a fine showing in the direction of building up weak jurisdictions this year, if the means are afforded us for the purpose.

MILLBROOK, DURHAM CO.—Some months ago it was thought Ivey lodge would go down, as a number of members left to form another organization. Bro. C. H. Lowry, L.D., writes, however:—Our report shows that we are not much behind last quarter, although we did lose twenty members. There have been twenty-one initiations. There is a good feeling manifested just now, and if it continues I trust to have a good report for next quarter. We have just the class of young men in at present we should seek to hold." C. H. Lowry, W. C. T., George Green, W. S., Miss Bateson, W. V.

HAMILTON.—The Tribune of the 8th inst. says that a very successful concert was given by Rescue Lodge. The singing of Mrs. Watson-Stead, Mrs. Hawkins, Miss Ada Close, and J. M. Clark well deserved the praise it received. All these ladies and gentlemen received enthusiastic encores. Miss E. Fletcher, Miss M. Foster, Mr. Morrison, and Mr. Rolston furnished the literary part of the programme. These talented artists rendered their parts admirably. Miss E. Cull, Miss A. B. Woodward and Miss Leslie were the solo pianists and accompanists, and rendered their pieces in good style.

RIPLEY, BRUCE CO.—Bro. F. McDon ald, of Water Lilly Lodge, writes: "I am glad to inform you that we are still advancing. We held an open lodge meeting on the 28th ult., it being the twelfth anniversary of our Lodge. We had a full house and a successful meeting. Last night seven new members were initiated, and they tell us there are more coming. Already this quarter twelve new members have joined. I hope we may double that number before the quarter is over. It is encouraging to read the reports of progress from many localities. We are here to work, and let us honor God and help our cause by doing so.

NORTH TORONTO.—At last week's meeting of Excelsior Lodge it was resolved to appoint a committee to wait on the candidates for alderman for ward, and ascertain their views about the adoption of a by-law by the Council separating the sale of liquor in shops from all other branches of the trade. The other temperance organizations in the locality intend to take a similar course.

The Sunday afternoon Temperance meeting last Sunday was very well attended, and an excellent address was given by Rev. Septimus Jones (Church of England). Next Sunday afternoon at four o'clock the usual meeting will be held in Temperance Hall, to be addressed by Mr. Flint, of Rose Avenue.

BARRIE.—Of Lone Star Lodge Bro. Andrews S. Whittell, W. C. T., writes: "Our Lodge, since its reorganization, has done well, and I am in hopes that our returns at the end of this quarter will show a membership of 80 or 90, at least. Every meeting adds to our numbers. For the "Good of the Order" the members of the lodge are divided into two parties, under two captains, who take alternate evenings in giving reading, recitations, music, etc., each piece has so many marks allowed, according to merit, and at the end of the quarter the losing party, I understand, is to "treat"—but of course on temperance

principles. As the programme was only commenced with the present term, and the members are not fairly warmed up to their work, I cannot pronounce yet on the effect, but I expect the spirit of rivalry will add greatly to the interest of the meetings, and induce a number of young people to join our ranks."

GLEN WILLIAMS, HALTON CO.—Of Royal Oak Lodge, Bro. W. H. Rodden, G. L. Organizing Agent, who has just visited it, writes as follows:—"This lodge has a well earned title to the qualities of strength, dignity and duration indicated by its name. Its Bro. T. H. James is a veteran in the cause of temperance, he it was whose faith rallied and led the other promoters of the Scott Act campaign in Halton Co. when symptoms of wavering appeared amongst them, and when the movement was by some friends thought to be a forlorn hope. Like the true soldier Bro. James is courageous and persistent in battle, and in his lodge room he is one of the pleasantest and most unassuming of men. On the evening of my visit a circular from the Oxford Co. Brethren was read, asking for financial aid towards the expenses of the Scott Act agitation there. The Royal Oak response was \$5 being all in the treasury except two cents. In addition to this a special collection was at once taken up, making the sum of \$11 for the object named.

A good programme was then rendered by the members, and all through the meeting bright temperance intelligence beamed from the happy faces there.

It would be a neglect of the right to make this notice without naming the fact that the two offices of Past Chief and Chief Templar are filled by lady members who discharged the duties of the positions with much ability and dignity. Their names are Sister Mrs. Irvie Williams and Sister Miss Lizzie Hutchinson.

It is also worthy of record that Royal Oak Lodge has not missed a meeting in its history of 22 years.

This is the kind of institution that cultivates the healthy sentiment that carries a prohibitory law. Royal Oak Lodge did its full share of the work that gave the victory to the Scott Act in Halton, and made it the banner County of Ontario in adopting the prohibitory legislation that has so notably accomplished a great moral improvement in the County.

Good of the Order.

FOR READINGS & RECITATIONS.

The Herd Laddie.

O-e morning very early,
I had risen fr-o my bed
And ga-e out tae the sheep-fauld,
To get them early fed.
And C-llie he caed w' me,
Companion of the way,
For we were suno to tak the road,
As it was market day.

Wi' pleasure there I fed them,
For they were a' my care;
Then sat me down to read a verso,
An I offer up a prayer
For the sun may rise in splendour,
And shed his glorious light;
Yet darkness may surround us,
And trials or its might.

The place where I was reading,
Was the Second Book of Kings.
And monie a bonnie picture,
Before my mind it brings.
But I saw a lassie greet'en,
And she was there her lane,
For she was now a captive,
And far away frae hame.

For a company of Syrians
Had invaded Israel's land;
And they had been victorions,
And brought back a captive band.
The kindred o' this lassie
May have perished in the strife,
But the captain he had pity,
And spared the lassie's life.

This Captain he was honorable,
And had faith wealth and fame;
And if ye'll turn to chapter Fifth,
Ye'll there find out his name.
He has taen the lassie w' him
And brought her tae his wife:
And tell't her a the story,
How he had saved her life.

The Laddie listened tae him,
And saw the lassie fair,
She said, she'd keep her wi' her,
To dress, and braid her hair.
She thanked him for the kindness,
That he had thus expressed:
Then sent the lassie tae a room,
Wi' ere she wad be refreshed.

And this was where I saw her,
When I began tae tell;
For when she entered in that room,
Down on her knees she fell;
And asked God tae keep her,
And lead her by the hand,
For she was there a captive,
And in the stranger's land.

And this bit o' the lesson,
Is what came hame to me,
That God will hear and answer prayer,
Wherever we may be.
He will guide us when we're waken,
And guard us when we sleep,
He'll bless all those that fear him,
Though a keeper of the sheep.

PART SECOND.

But now we'll turn to Kings,
And see if we can find
An answer tae that lassie's prayer,
And if the Laddies kind.
We see she has retain'd her place,
Won favor, which is better,
And she's fand out that laddie's grief,
Her husband is a leper.

For as she waited on her
As her duties kept her near,
She often heard her heave a sigh,
O: saw her drap a tear.
The laddie saw the sympathy
Upon the lassie's face;
An' tell her, she was vexed about
Her husband's leprous case.

"O wuld to God, my mistress,
That the master could hae see
A prophct in my countrie,
For he would make him clean."
Tae laddie only looked at her,
But ventured no reply.
She ken'd that kind of leprosy,
All treatment would defy.

Fever may burn, or ague el'l,
And pain the body rack:
Yet nature may bear up awhile,
And health e-mo: muling back.
But leprosy, vile leprosy,
Of body, or of soul,
There's naething but the power of God,
Can cleanse, or make us whole.

But other ears had heard them speak,
And read the lassie true.
And to Naaman at the Court,
With the glad news they flew.
They tell't him what the lassie said,
And auno the King was told;
Go to, go to, he cried in haste,
We'll try the power of gold.

Unto the King of Israel,
I'll also write a letter,
And tell him I have sent you there
That he may mak you better,
Ten talents then of silver,
S-x thousand bits of gold.
Ten changes too, of raiment,
Together they did fold.

This costly gift to Israel's King,
Will mak him we'll content,
To heal my servant's leprosy,
For the money I have sent.
Naaman and his company,
Then started on the way
With horses and with chari's,
To make a great display.

But the King of Israel's anger rose,
When he had read the letter.
"Do s he tak me for God," he cries,
"That I should cleanse a leper?"
He is seeking for a quarrel;
Now, this very plain.
His royal robes, he therefore rent,
Overcome with grief and shame.

But soon the prophct heard the news,
And sent unto the King
Saying, why are you thus troubled,
With the letter that they bring?
Tell them that they may come to me,
When you receive this word:
For they shall know in Israel,
There's a prophct of the Lord.

Naaman with his companie,
Then drave up to the door;
He thought the prophct would come out,
And cure his leprous sore.
Surrounded by his servants,
In his chariot, he did wait.
But the prophct sent his servant out,
With a message to the gate.

"Drive down unto the Jordan,
And dip beneath the wave,
Seven times beneath the waters,"
Is the message that he gave.
Naaman looked confounded;
And flow off in a rage.
To think the man should speak to him,
As though he'd been a page!

"Behold," he cried, "I thought that he
Would come out here and pray,
With out stretched hands, unto his God,
And it would pass away.
But, go down to the Jordan;
To me its disgrace.
As if he'd tell't a dirty bairn,
To gang and wash its face.

If washing wad hae clean't me,
I need na gaen sac far.
There's better water nearer hame,
Abana and Parphar."
But his servan's then said, "Father,"
(For they took a different view)
"If the prophct he had tell't you,
Some wondrous work to do,

Na doubt ye would hae tried it,
O: if he'd asked more store
Of gold and silver, than we've brought,
You would hae sent him more.
But his command so simple,
You dare to disobey:
If you had done as you were bid,
Ye might be clean to-day."

"Then drive down to the Jordan,"
He cried, with greatest speed.
"I feel my need of cleansing,
For I am foul indeed."
He plunged into the water:
Seven times beneath the waves;
Then felt the balm of healing,
And God's own power to save.

God's spirit there revealing,
To him, salvation's plan,
That Christ should come with healing
And die for fallen man.
He went back to the prophct,
His mind was filled with peace;
To offer a thanksgiving,
For this his great release.

The prophct bade him go in peace.
No offering would he take;
The power was God's, the glory too,
Was for his own name's sake.
But now, a strange request he makes,
This man of wealth and birth.
He asks the prophets leave, to take
Two camels load of earth.

That he might take it home with him,
And spread it on the sod;
Where he would build an altar,
That he might worship God.
And thus throughout the chapter,
We trace God's finger there:
Man's pride, we see, is humbled:
And an answer given to prayer.

For the prayers of that bit lassie
He to his house did bring,
Has brought a blessing down on them,
And it reaches to the King.

MARGARET MOSCUP.

St. Mary's, Ont.

Grand Lodge of Canada.

G.W.C.T., J. H. Flagg, Mitchell.
G.W.C., Edward Storr, Ottawa.
G.W.V., Lydia Newman, Paris.
G.W.S., T. W. Casey, Napanea.
G.W.T., J. B. Nixon, Toronto.
G.W.C., Rev. E. Fessant, Centralia.
G.W.M., J. J. Mason, Essex Centre.
G.D.M., Isabella Henderson, Toronto.
G.W.G., Annie D. Vello, Toronto.
G.W.S., W. H. Gribble, Woodstock.
P.G.C.W., Rev. John Shaw, Peterboro.
Next annual session to be held at Toronto,
fourth Tuesday in June, 1884.