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# Home Circle Leader

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## P. M. PATTISON.

The face upon which the reader is invited to look in this, the first issue of the HOME CIRCLE LEADER, is that of Mr. Phillip M. Pattison, the founder of the Order of Canadian Home Circles. It is the face of an honest man, of a man with a good deal of faith in his fellow men; and although not in any way conceited or self-opinionated, in the offensive sense, has a great deal of faith in his own resources, which enables him to impress people favorably, and to draw them to him in the belief that he is unassuming and reliable, a man of honesty and integrity. The qualities which are natural to his character have been very much cultivated by many years of public life in promoting the work of Mutual Benefit Orders in the province of Ontario.

He began this work in the year 1880, by assisting in the organization of about twenty-two Lodges of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In 1881 he united with the Royal Templars of Temperance, and being a strong temperance man, was anxious to do what he could in promoting a beneficiary work that might have the advantage of Total Abstinence to recommend it. He continued in this work until about 130 Councils had been organized, and in consequence of a determination on the part of others to introduce a Reserve Fund, and some other features which he considered objectionable, he declined further to engage in its work of organization. During this time he had had about four years' experience in the practical work of organizing Beneficiary Societies, and was so thoroughly conversant with all the details that he believed he could give the people of Canada a better organization than he had yet worked for, and, with the aid of some of the most practical and far-seeing friends he had formed, set about framing a Constitution for a new Order, to be called the Order of Canadian Home Circles.

With characteristic zeal, ability and fidelity he pushed forward, amid many difficulties and discouragements, until now he has the satisfaction of seeing the Order, as it stands, one of the strongest and most useful of the Beneficiary Orders of Ontario, consisting as it now does of 124 Circles, and about 5,000 members.

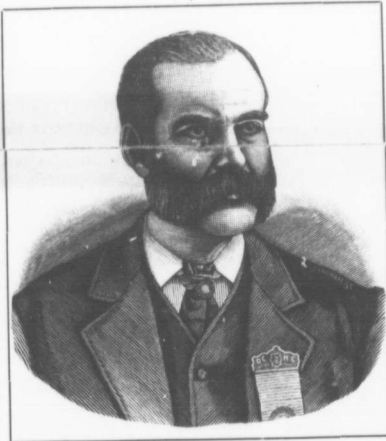
Few of us, perhaps, know anything of the anxiety, hard work and heavy expense involved in such an undertaking. For more than a year Bro. Pattison worked hard, involving his property by mortgage, in order to pay travelling expenses, printing bills, and to meet the innumerable items of outlay which arose before him day by day. But with a faith that never faltered, and a courage that did not flag, he pursued his purpose, until at the close of the second year the growth and healthy progress of the Order became an assurance, which we are pleased to know that subsequent days has proved to be a fact of encouraging experience.

As it is well known to most of the members, an arrangement was made at the first with Bro. Pattison that he should have control of the organizing work until the Order attained a membership of 8,000 strong. We are happy to say that this time is fast approaching,

perhaps with as rapid a growth as any other society of the kind in Canada, even where several organizers have been at work, and it is hoped that he may be long spared to promote the health and growth of the child, now grown into full young manhood, of which its parent, grown somewhat older and careworn, has reason to feel proud.

Some of us who have known Bro. Pattison for years believe him to be one of the most efficient and reliable organizers that Ontario has produced. His familiarity with the figures of insurance companies, and the principles upon which the claims of Beneficiary Societies are based, gives him power to stand before the most astute insurance mathematician and maintain his ground that mutual association insurance is, for the poor man, the most desirable of all forms of provision for the surviving dependents of those who die. Those who know Bro. Pattison best are aware of the ground of his success as a canvasser, yet no one supposes that this arises from his scholastic training, or his ability as a platform speaker.

It arises from his mastery of the few simple foundation facts which common sense sees lying at the basis of this work—the great need of a cheap form of financial provision in case of death, and the fact that this can be met by those who engage in fraternal pledges to pay the minimum sum required when the need arises. He has often surprised his friends by the masterful grasp he has upon the finance problems of life insurance, and the hardest job an insurance agent has on hand is when he attacks the plain-faced, plain-dressed, matter-of-fact Supreme Organizer of the Order of Canadian Home Circles, and thinks to demolish him. Nothing pleases Bro. Pattison more than to clemish his well-put argument with an emphatic swing of his strong left hand, and a pleasant twinkle of his soft, expressive grey eye, while he says, "Gentlemen, you may say as you like, but I know whereof I affirm." This attitude is in-



variably associated with a quotation from the published reports and tabulated statistics of well-known institutions of Canada, United States, or Great Britain.

He has no quarrel with the regular companies, but it does one good to notice his pleasure while engaged in a good-natured encounter of this kind.

Bro. Pattison has had hard lines sometimes in his work, but he has stood to his post, and done his work well. He stands to-day, after coming through a severe sickness of about three months' duration, full of enthusiasm and vigor for his much loved labor.

He was born in the township of Crowland, Ont., on the 5th of July, 1838, and is now, therefore, in the 52nd year, of his age, just in his prime for work and wisdom. May he long live in healthful happiness and prosperity!

LIFE'S real heroes and heroines are those who bear their own burdens bravely and give a helping hand to those around them.