

the meeting by the statements then presented, as well as by the previous action of the Grand Lodge, and this after listening to all that could be said by the advocates of the Grand Lodge then present, was, that the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars had used its powers—if indeed it had not far exceeded them—for the purposes of injustice and oppression, and that they had thereby injured individuals, as well as the Temperance cause generally; and it was resolved that the members of the Independent Order present, together with any others approving of the movement, would form a new Order of Good Templars, on a basis which, while equally efficient in promoting the cause of Temperance, would be divested of the objectionable features of the old Order, and render such proceedings as had recently been enacted by the Grand Lodge difficult, if not impossible, for the future.

In accordance with this resolution, a Committee was appointed to draft a Constitution, Ritual, and all other forms essential to the new Order, and the meeting adjourned for two weeks, to give the Committee time to mature their labors, and bring in a report to a second meeting, to be held on the 18th of November. On the day appointed this second meeting was held, pursuant to public notice; the Committee brought in their report, and after deliberate consideration, the report of the Committee, with some amendments, was adopted.

The elements in the Independent Order which were deemed objectionable, inimical to its satisfactory working in this country, and in which amendment was required, were the following:

I. That it was an institution under a foreign jurisdiction. This is avowed in all its books and laws, and has been recognized in all its acts of administration to the present moment. A foreign jurisdiction, however mildly and wisely exercised, is liable continually to jar with the feelings and habits of British subjects; and besides this, it supposes a centralized authority, and that authority a foreign one, which at all times it must be difficult and expensive to reach, and almost impossible to influence or control. It is in the nature of such a "jurisdiction" to act unsuitably to the feelings and genius of a foreign people, from the fact that it is not sufficiently informed and impressed as to existing events, and interests of those it governs. On this and other grounds, the new organization repudiates any "jurisdiction" of the Right Worthy Grand Lodge. It owes that Lodge what it will ever be willing to concede and exercise—fraternity, but it rejects its domination, and it inscribes

upon its banners, a name, which is dear to every British subject in these colonies—THE "BRITISH AMERICAN" Order of Good Templars.

II. That the power and authority of the Grand Worthy Chief is excessive, and liable to degenerate into favoritism on the one hand, and despotism on the other. He can appoint deputies all over the country to carry out his plans. He can appoint five out of the ten officers of the Grand Lodge, as well as his deputy in every County. By this power of appointment, and by suitable management, he can secure in the sessions of the Grand Lodge so large a number of votes in favor of his own views or interests, that it would be difficult for the freely chosen representatives of the lodges of the Order to muster in some places a sufficient strength to withstand him. He may be a good and disinterested man, but he is but a man, and such a power as he is invested with would endanger the integrity, and test the disinterestedness and impartiality of any man to an extent that he must be almost more than human if his administration does not become partial and even despotic.

This power of the G. W. C. T., in the new Order, has been abridged, and brought within such limits as will be safe for himself and for the cause of which he is for the time being the head.

III. The names of the Son and Holy Ghost have been expunged from the prayers of the new Ritual of the Independent Order, very much to the grievance of a large number of the members of the Order. This expurgation is charged mainly, if not solely, upon the Grand Lodge of Canada, or their Executive—the Right Worthy Grand Lodge having had no hand in it. Whether this is so or not, the fact is certain that the names of the Son and Holy Ghost have disappeared from the Ritual, and the justification of this omission, bearing the signature of the Grand Worthy Sec. W. A. Ferguson, in the published minutes of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, I. O. G. T., is, that "no omission has been made," for, quoting the old Ritual, he says, "Our Temple, erected and consecrated to the glory of God, and benefit of our race, knows no lines or latitude, bounded by no geographical distinctions, and bows to no THEOLOGICAL DOGMA." In this respect, therefore, the BRITISH AMERICAN ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS differs essentially from the Independent Order. It recognises "geographical" limits, and designates itself by a geographical distinction, wide enough for its ambition; and demanding all the energies which all the Temperance organizations within its bounds are able

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