

Provincial Insurance Office,

TORONTO, 30TH OCTOBER, 1858.

(CARD TO THE STOCKHOLDERS.)

In issuing the Annual Report, the Manager takes leave on personal considerations, to present the following Card to the Stockholders:—

In the first place he confidently trusts that no unfavorable impression may be made on their minds by a scurrilous attack made upon him by the late Agent in New York, who, they may not have been informed, has been discontinued in his agency, and whose accounts are unsettled.

In regard to these libels he would merely say that an unsullied reputation for more than a quarter of a century actively engaged in the business of Insurance, could treat with the contempt they merit, any attacks of this nature, more particularly when the animus invoking them may be at once gathered from the preceding paragraph; but on account of the Company, legal proceedings are commenced and will be followed up, which will place the character of *all parties* in their proper light before the public.

With these remarks it may not be out of place to add that the Manager had not the honor of entering the service of the Company until he laid before them references to his former services and position, of which he is justly proud—among them testimonials of the highest character from an Insurance Company in England, of which he was Manager, and which he served with pleasure and success during *sixteen years*—while it cannot fail to have its effect on the minds of the Stockholders that foremost among the advocates for his entering the services of the Company was Mr. Thompson of New York, who wrote to the President of the Provincial Company in the following terms:—

(copy.)

New York, Sept. 24th, 1857.

J. G. HOWARD, Esq.,
President.

DEAR SIR,—

I mentioned to Mr. Cameron the possibility of your securing the services of the Hon. J. Leander Starr, and he requested me to see that gentleman. I have done so, and I think if you offer him £1000. Currency, that he will accept the position. Mr. Starr is represented to have great ability in the management of Insurance business, and stands high as a man and gentleman. He informs me he was educated as a Marine Adjuster, but afterwards took charge of Fire and Life business, organised a large body of Agents in Canada and the United States, subsequently went to London as the Home Manager of the Institution there. He has returned to this country to gratify his wife, who is an American by birth. It is extremely difficult to find the qualifications for Fire and Marine business united in one person, and the Company may greatly profit by this opportunity. I suppose Mr. Starr would be willing to visit Toronto to have a personal interview if you make him or authorize me to make him the offer. Should the same success attend his efforts for you as has done his efforts for the Company he so ably represented here, you would have cause of congratulating yourselves upon securing his services.

I am, very truly yours,

(Signed)

A. W. THOMPSON.

The Manager would merely remark that the letter was written before Mr. Thompson's agency was discontinued.

In the present state of the Manager's legal proceedings, he abstains from entering into further particulars—and all he now asks of the Stockholders, is to accord him British justice, deeming him honorable until he fails to establish that it has only been the zeal and fidelity with which he has striven to defend and protect the interests of the Stockholders that has given rise to the utterance of the gross and false libels with which he is assailed.

J. LEANDER STARR.

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