

the National Division consent to such a change in the constitution as was suggested in the resolution passed at the last Quarterly Session, it is probable that many of those who have been expelled for non-payment of dues will be restored to us.

Several Divisions, I am sorry to say, are not in working order. A list of them will be furnished by the Grand Scribe. It will be proper to consider what steps should be taken to remove these irregularities.

Since the last Quarterly Session the new Ritual has arrived, and has been furnished to the Divisions. As the ceremonies enjoined in that Ritual "supplant entirely" those heretofore in use, directions have been issued for the transmission of the old Blue Books and Cards to the Grand Scribe's Office. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed for the reception of any reports from the Deputies respecting the manner in which the new Ritual is regarded by the Subordinate Divisions. Instructions will therefore be given them to send in their reports on that subject on or before the first day of June next, in order that the representatives of the Grand Division may be prepared to take such action at the Annual Meeting of the National Division as may be judged advisable after those reports have been received and considered.

I have not received any communication from the Grand Division of New Brunswick respecting the Annual Session of the National Division, about to be held in the City of St. John, and I am therefore unable to inform you of the arrangements contemplated. It is generally understood, however, that there will be public celebrations on a magnificent scale, and that the occasion will attract a large concourse of the friends of Temperance. Nova Scotia, it is confidently expected, will contribute its quota. Such an opportunity will not probably occur again for many years. As soon as authentic intelligence arrives, it will be communicated through the columns of the *Athenæum*. You will now, as I have already observed be called upon to deliberate on the policy to be adopted under the existing circumstances of our cause. The withdrawal of the Prohibitory Liquor Law was regarded by those who had the charge of it as a necessity, arising out of the evenly balanced state of parties in the House of Assembly on that question. We have therefore to consider what course will have the most powerful tendency to convince the Legislature that in passing that Law they will act in compliance with the wishes of the people of Nova Scotia; and by what means the energies of the Order may be so completely developed and so judiciously employed as to bring about that result at an early period. These discussions will be unusually interesting and important. Let us engage in them in a becoming spirit, and not separate till we have decided on such a plan of proceedings as shall show all men that the Sons of Temperance of the Province of Nova Scotia are prepared to stand by their principles at all risks, and at whatever cost.

Respectfully submitted, in Love, Purity, and Fidelity,  
J. M. CRAMP, *Grand Worthy Patriarch*.

• Canard, Cornwallis, April 26th, 1854.

Referred to Committee on State of the Order.