

Annual Session and the winter's campaign, that a portion of the time of this session should be devoted to the important question, "What amendments are required, and what should we unitedly demand?"

INFORMATION NEEDED.

At present we are lacking in facts to prove the prosperity of our cause. Some persons residing in places whence rum has been recently banished, are all aglow and think that we are near the final success; while others, whose homes are in the rum districts, think there is no success and that we are actually retrograding. I am anxious to gather information from all the counties which will enable my annual report to present such statistics as shall furnish Temperance men in parliament and elsewhere with facts to successfully contradict statements made against the advancement of Total Abstinence principles. I purpose sending out to County Deputies and reliable men in the country, a number of leading questions, requesting replies at or before the first of October. (Questions here read over.)

DEATH

has thinned our ranks. Our Brother Downing, of Lockeport, initiated into this Grand Division just one year ago, has been taken to the better land. A veteran of this Grand Division—one of its chartered members, and the first Grand Treasurer—Brother James B. Dane, of Yarmouth, has during the quarter been called from the earth to spirit world. The Grand Division, I feel sure, will vote Memorial tablets to these departed members.

DUES.

Every quarter the returns show a large number of members expelled for the non-payment of dues. This should not be. In some instances members are expelled, nominally for non-payment, but really because the pledge has been violated and brothers do not care to bring and sustain a charge.—Such action is lacking in integrity—and "integrity with us is of more value than silver or gold."

It is a charge against us sometimes, that the poor and aged have not much opportunity to remain with us. My suggestion has been adopted in several instances, whereby instead of dues being exacted from each member, a collection is taken up at every Session of the Division—whether public or private—and this amount with the Entrance fees, stands as the receipts of the evening. This plan while giving individual responsibility, saves the indigent members from expulsion for the non-payment of dues.

THE STOCK

of "Constitutions and Bye-Laws" for Subordinate Divisions has been exhausted during part of the quarter. The vote of this Grand Body authorizing the printing of 3000 copies, will soon enable the Grand Scribe to supply all demands. In the formation of some Divisions, I have been compelled to use old stock—that is, Rituals, and Officers' cards that had been in use and returned to the Grand Division. At the beginning of the year there was only a small stock on hand and it was soon exhausted. I could not defer organizing Divisions till new stock should arrive, so used the old stock. Some Divisions have since received the new stock, but others are working for months with the old, and are dissatisfied. I feel that my own honor as well as the credit of this Grand Division are at stake, and so feel obliged to state the circumstances to you.

Some Divisions and Members have complained of want of promptness on the part of the Executive of this Grand Body in attending to their wants or answering their inquiries. I regret this exceedingly. It has ever been my practice to give the earliest possible attention to all business and official correspondence, and I assure you I have striven thus far to do the same as Grand Worthy Patriarch.