

sion will doubtless take some steps towards the distribution of the capitation tax in a way which is likely to do the greatest amount of good.—Yours in L. P. and F.,

A MEMBER.

To the Editor,

DEAR SIR,—In last month's paper one of your correspondents cited the present position of the Good Templars as proof that a low tax would not be a benefit. Why, sir, with a 5 cent contribution that Order increased to nearly 30,000 members and an income of over \$6,000. The advisability of raising the tax was discussed in their Grand Lodge meeting, but they very wisely decided not to do so, but decided very unanimously to cut down their Grand Lodge expenses, and they have done so to the extent of about one half. Let us go and do likewise, and we will also reach a membership of 30,000. Our present system of spending the Grand Division income is unjust to the Subordinate Divisions. When the tax was raised by our Grand Division from 5 cents to 7 cents, it was on the plea that the 2 cents additional was for propagation purposes. Of late years the money has been always kept in one common fund, and the employment of lecturers depended on their being any money to spare, and instead of being the first consideration, it was always the last.

The scheme I propose is this, of the 28 cents per member which we now receive from the Subordinate Divisions, 12 cents shall be set apart for the payment of Grand Division expenses, viz. :—Grand Scribe's salary, Officers' travelling expenses, National Division tax, and sessional expenses. Should this amount not be deemed sufficient, let us put a curb on our generosity for the present, and wait until our income increases. 8 cents to be set apart for propagation work, under the direction of the executive, who shall employ a lecturer to go not where he pleases but if possible to be at the service of our Subordinate Divisions for special meetings. 8 cents to be

remitted to the Order to be used by their County or District Divisions, for the purpose of propagating the Order in their several localities. This last is where the strength of the scheme lies, for I believe that \$50 in the hands of the District Division of the County of York will in one year bring in at least five new Divisions and a membership of from 150 to 200. What can be done in one county can be done in another. The men who are on the spot know what is wanted better than those at a distance, they can also spend the money to better advantage, and when a new Division is organized they are near enough to it to be able to nurse and encourage it until it is able to stand alone and assist others in its turn. Let any of our members figure out for themselves what the result would be in one year in the jurisdiction under this system, and they will find that in a very short time our membership and income would be doubled, and besides, the Subordinate Divisions would be actually paying only a 5 cent tax on their membership, the obnoxious additional 2 cents going back to them and forming a fund to be spent by themselves under their own supervision. As it is at present, every cent they have to spare goes to the Grand Division, and they are without means at their disposal to inaugurate any movement for the advancement of the Order. I believe if our Subordinate Divisions get the opportunity they will avail themselves of it immediately. In action there is health, not only to the individual but also to societies, and the result will be strong, healthy Divisions instead of so many weak and sickly ones as there is at the present time. As our membership increases, and it is bound to increase under this system, our income will also increase, and we will have a larger income than ever at our disposal, whilst our Grand Division expenses proper need not be increased to any great extent. But whatever may be done at our next session, by all means let us know exactly

how we stand, and prepare to do our best to pay our debts and do our work systematically, according to our means. Your correspondent acknowledges that the Order is low at present. I know our expenditure has been in excess of our income, and it is absolutely necessary that a reform should be inaugurated in every department of the Grand Division. I blame no one but every one, we are all responsible, we have not done as well as we might have done, and we will be faithless to our principles and to ourselves if we fail to do our work as Sons of Temperance, honestly and fearlessly without regard to individual feelings or prejudices, but looking to the best interests of the Order now and always.—

Yours truly,

J. McM.

Bro. Carswell.

PRO. CARSWELL has been holding meetings in Milton, Hamilton, Dundas, Welland, Burford and Beamsville, lecturing on Temperance. The meetings have been well attended, and the brother seems to have lost none of his former popularity. Grand River Division, Brantford, desirous of giving him a financial benefit, invited him to deliver his popular lecture on "Laughter," and the Brantford *Telegram* of the 16th, says:—"Wickliffe Hall was completely jammed last night to hear Mr. Carswell lecture, about the best compliment that could be paid the lecturer, who is well known here. He handled his subject "Laughter" in an able manner, and kept the audience in splendid humour. Many of his anecdotes were told as only Carswell knows how to tell them, and were received with roars of laughter. Nor were his pathetic parts wanting in earnestness or simple language that enlists the sympathy of an audience. The mayor occupied the chair, to the satisfaction of the audience. Messrs. Fax, Klepper and Lee filled the programme with instrumental and vocal music. The silver collection taken up amounted to over \$30.