

Brother J. S. Thompson reported from the Committee on the state of the Order.

REPORT.

The Committee appointed to report on the state of the Order, submit their views on the subject in charge, as follows:

The Committee have gratification in believing that the Order in the Province gives many signs of healthful vitality, although its state is not so prosperous as was considered prospectively reasonable at former periods.

A small increase of members is visible as compared with the numbers reported at last Annual Session. Considering the trials to which the Order has been subject, by the decline of novelty, by emigration, and various causes of difficulty, incidental to such associations, the facts that increase can be stated, and that many evidences of firmness and zeal appear, call for thanks to the Divine Being who blesses good endeavours, and for renewed hope and activity.

Punctuality and accuracy being of much consequence, and being indicative of deep interest and of business habits,—the Committee have the pleasure of reporting that the returns from Subordinate Divisions are much more numerous than they were at the July Session;—still, several are wanting, and not one should be. We would again urge, respectfully but firmly, that the Subordinate Divisions consider the importance of having the statistics of the Order consolidated; and that they pay religious attention to the timely transmission of the documents, without which, sessions of the Grand Division would be, to some extent, ineffective, and the general organization would have a weak and vague appearance.

The returns exhibit one feature, which the Committee would specify as causing regret: they allude to the expulsion of members for non-payment of dues,—and would respectfully recommend much caution and lenity in reference to such cases. The effort surely should be, and we hope is, to renew the attendance and improve the position of defaulting members, and not, until after the exercise of much persuasion and patience, to proceed to any measures calculated to remove them from the influence of temperance organization.

The absence of Appeals at this session, may be considered indicative of the more harmonious working of Subordinate Divisions, and, as such, cause of congratulation. If such absence, however, be caused by any loss of interest, it should be deplored, because, when the object is good, agitation and friendly controversy are more to be desired than the quietness that proceeds from apathy.

That comparative lukewarmness is visible, must, we fear, be admitted,—because, when we consider the period in which we live, and the great interests we have in charge, much more might well be expected concerning the Order: more representatives at sessions of the Grand Division;—more readiness on the part of members to forego some attention to every day affairs in behalf of the business of Temperance;—and more evidence, generally, that our Institution,