

part lost to the Order. In many instances, probably the delinquents might have been reclaimed, if, in addition to forbearance in relation to the pecuniary demand, diligent endeavours had been employed to re-animate declining zeal, or to remove occasions of offence. The cases of those members who are necessarily absent from their homes on long voyages call for special leniency.

In connection with this subject there is another point which will require your attention. It is considered by some debateable, whether the words of the resolution passed by the National Division should be strictly or liberally construed; that is, whether the expression, "found on the Financial Scribe's books," should be understood as meaning, "found square on the books," or "found on the list of members." Difference of opinion having arisen on this question, certain documents and copies of correspondence will be laid before you, with a view to discussion and decision.

The Committee appointed at the annual meeting having succeeded in securing the valuable services of Brother J. Johnson, P.G.W.P. of the Province of New Brunswick, for a limited period, he has commenced his labours in the Eastern part of the Province, visiting Divisions, lecturing, and endeavouring in various ways to infuse new energy into the Order. It cannot be doubted that this arrangement will prove eminently advantageous. Brother Johnson comes to us highly recommended as an experienced and popular lecturer. The Divisions will receive him, it cannot be doubted, with their accustomed cordiality, and promote his object to the utmost of their power. Those Divisions which have not yet responded to the call for pecuniary aid will come forward cheerfully, it is hoped, and continue their share of the expenses necessarily attendant on such an agency.

The state of the *Athenæum* newspaper has occasioned much anxiety during the quarter. Having been informed by one of the Editors of that paper that the discontinuance of it was in contemplation, I lost no time in communicating with the Officers of the Grand Division, resident in Halifax, who, assisted by other brethren, acted as an advisory Committee, and took into consideration various plans which were recommended for adoption in case of need. The further action of the Committee was happily rendered unnecessary by the Proprietors determination to continue the *Athenæum* another year. The friends of the paper have rallied to the rescue, and such arrangements have been made as will secure, it is confidently hoped, the general support of the Temperance public. I trust that these expectations will be realised. Our efforts will be comparatively powerless without the help of the press; *with it*, "one may chase a thousand, and two may put ten thousand to flight."

The question of a prohibitory law is now the question of the day. The members of our Order in this Province have almost without exception given their adhesion to the affirmative side, and have afforded practical proof of their zeal by uniting in Petitions to the Legislature, praying for an enactment similar to the Maine Liquor Law. The promotion of this object demands our most anxious and