

The Grand Worthy Patriarch submitted the following Report:—

TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ORDER IN GRAND DIVISION ASSEMBLED:
Officers and Brothers—

Accept of our cordial fraternal greeting—and I beseech you to unite with me in invoking the Blessing of the Most High to rest upon our Session, so that our united labors may result in the furtherance of the principles of our Order and the best interests of our country.

The Report of the Most Worthy Scribe to the National Division has reached me since our Semi-Annual Session, and gives the most gratifying assurance of the sound and progressive state of the Order in North America; and it may justly afford us sincere pleasure to learn that the Grand Division of Canada West stands in point of numbers and influence second to none other in the world. As to the indications of progress amongst ourselves, they are various. The Annual Reports of the Order of Good Templars exhibit unprecedented success in that organization. Several movements of importance have taken place amongst the friends of Temperance, unconnected with either that Order or the Order of the Sons.

The true and reliable criterion of the state of our own Order must be found in the Statistical Return of your Grand Scribe, which will be laid before you.

Reports of Deputy Grand Worthy Patriarchs bear the same features as in times past: some cheering and chronicling decided advancement; some contending with opposition, and yet with manly determination holding their own; some reporting decline of Divisions under their jurisdiction.

The experience of former years has proved that the summer season is not the most propitious one for sustaining the workings of our Subordinate Divisions, although affording favorable opportunities for public demonstrations, and thus operating for good on the public mind; and we believe in no season has this feature in the Temperance movement been more successfully maintained than in the one now past. I embrace in this statement the result of the labors and active co-operation of all the existing organizations.

We have, however, indications of the progress of Temperance principles upon the public mind, independently of these direct and ostensible efforts, which we deem to be of a very important character, and which if properly estimated must cheer and encourage all to increased perseverance.

It is very true that the efforts of the Hon. M. Cameron to obtain the enactment of even a stringent License Law at the last Session of the Legislature did not succeed; and it is also undoubtedly true that a majority of the Representatives of the present House, including the Ministry (with perhaps one exception), appeared both in their personal conduct and in their Legislative actions to be hostile to everything that would favor legal or prohibitive legislation, and yet their proceedings bear evidence that the efforts of the friends of Temperance have not been in vain; but that they are unostentatiously yet effectively beginning to bring forth fruits.

The first evidence of this we have in our new Municipal Act, wherein by section Seventy-Three it is declared that "No Inn-keeper or Saloon-keeper shall be qualified to be a Member of the Council of the Corporation."