

"Whereas the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage is productive of evil and desolation; and,

"Whereas, strenuous efforts are being made by moral suasion and by seeking legal enactments to remove the evil; therefore,

*"Resolved*, That in our opinion, the law commonly known as the Maine Law, is sound in theory, and thoroughly efficient in its results and operations.

*"Resolved*, That we earnestly recommend to the members of this Association to use all possible and lawful means to seek for the enactment of the Maine Law, or some law which shall be equally efficient in its operations, to remove the great evil of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors from our land.

Resolutions of a similar kind have been also passed at the recent meetings of the Baptist Associations of this province and of New Brunswick. Other instances might be adduced, but these will suffice. Christianity, in all its forms and manifestations, extends its holy patronage to the Temperance enterprise.

It now devolves on me to refer to the Annual Session of the National Division, recently held in St. John N. B. Five Representatives of this Grand Division, viz., P. G. W. P.'s Burrill and Christie; P. G. W. A.'s Van Baskirk and Naylor; together with the G. W. P., attended that session. There we met brethren gathered from almost all the States of the neighboring Union, from New England to California, as well as from the British provinces of New Brunswick and Canada West. The champions of the Order were there, and were privileged to unite with them in council, and to listen to their eloquent and spirit-stirring addresses. The public demonstration which took place on the first day of the session, and the meetings which were held during the week, have exerted a happy influence in the city of St. John. Large accessions to their numbers have been since enjoyed by the Divisions, and the Order stands justly higher in the public esteem than ever before. Herein our brethren in that city will be in some respects rewarded for their extraordinary efforts and their profuse liberality. They spared no labor, they grudged no expense, and they will have no cause to regret it.

The proceedings of the National Division, as far as they affect the Order generally, require to be placed before you in detail. I will begin with the question of the new Ritual. The Reports forwarded to me by the few Deputies who attended to their instructions in that particular, indicated satisfaction, on the whole, with the new Ritual, the Initiatory Ceremony excepted, which some complained of for its complexity, and others for other reasons. These feelings were peculiarly strong in the city of Halifax, and I was at one time apprehensive that serious consequences would ensue. Fortunately, they were averted. The subject was brought before the National Division, and after considerable discussion a resolution was passed, authorizing the subordinate divisions to omit such portions of the initiatory ceremony as they may think proper, pro-