

ready for commission; the current financial year will see four more completed, while nine others are in progress. Nor are these vessels mere rafts carrying a martello-tower, or Noah's Arks strengthened with iron bars, like the hastily constructed Monitors and Merimacs of America; nor are they floating batteries only fit to lie at the entrance of harbours, or creep about the mouths of rivers, but ocean-going ships, that can steam their fourteen knots an hour, and fight their guns in heavy seas."

The *Edinburgh Review*, thus discourses concerning the great debate upon the motion of "want of confidence," forgetting that the aged Premier alone keeps the Whigs in power. "The delusion of a Conservative reaction in Parliament was, however, finally dispelled by the vote on the Danco-German question. Mr. Disraeli's motion was brought forward at a moment singularly favorable to his party. The efforts of the Government to secure peace in the North of Europe had failed, while a combination of circumstances carried over to the Opposition eighteen or twenty Irish Roman Catholic votes, usually found on the Liberal side of the House. The motion had a twofold aspect; it was at once a censure of the Government and a vote of confidence in the Opposition leaders. The greater the censure, if any, which the debate proved the Government to have deserved, the more complete and the more crushing was the want of confidence which the result expressed in those who aspired to fill their places. The division in the House of Lords was a still bitterer humiliation to those who provoked it. The hereditary Peerage and the Church, as represented by those of their members present at the deliberations on the questions at issue, gave a majority against the Conservative motion. How profound was the mortification at finding that these two bodies, reckoned by the Tory party, the one a sure ally, the other a willing tool, were not to be depended upon, betrayed itself in the first burst of rage and disappointment uttered by the Conservative press."

TEMPERANCE.

Never in modern times did a body of enlightened and wise men enter so disinterested, so earnest, and so successful a protest against a growing evil, as the first originators of the Temperance league. Father Matthew and his supporters put their shoulder to the wheel, and honestly, fearlessly made head against a great social canker. Without suspicion of temporal reward, without even a hope of becoming the favorites of an unthinking multitude—through discouragements—through the obstructive trimmers who drink one glass and feel no sin—they held their way.—They looked on the lower classes. They saw the drunken husband beating his sober and industrious wife. They saw the drunkard's children starving, whilst their sire was being befuddled at the Tavern—and they saw the drunkard himself eventually dying upon a dung-hill. Headed by Father Matthew, a league was formed against this great sin of drunkenness; a *vieu* we may add parenthetically almost peculiar to the Anglo-Saxon race and the inhabitants of Northern Countries. The Association prospered. Through the length and breadth of Great Britain and Ireland, Temperance divisions flourished. The cry was taken up in America and the Temperance league attained force in the New world as in the old. In Nova Scotia also, the disciples of Father Matthew worked with effect, and have hitherto year by year progressed favorably in their noble enterprise. We say "hitherto," because it must be confessed that the last report of the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance is far from satisfactory to the well-

wishers of the cause which the Society represents. To such we can only say, persevere. Whatever evil there may be at the time of the report itself, or the unsatisfactory conclusions which it admits, but fails to point out, the benefits of temperance remain unaltered.

The report of the Grand Division may well be discouraging to those supporters of Temperance who consider it calmly. It will also perhaps pour balm upon the souls of those who are foolishly inclined to oppose the Temperance cause altogether. Temperance and anti-temperance men may alike argue from the report that the whole scheme is a failure in Nova Scotia. All could reasonably urge, that a cause which requires puffing—which requires that only its success should be mentioned, without any allusion to its failures—is naturally to be condemned as on its last legs. If the great work is in want of assistance, it is the duty of the G. W. P. to say so. Honesty and the Temperance cause requires that he should do so. It is mere imbecility to assert that total abstinence progresses as rapidly as hitherto, when the figures (which few perhaps may read) prove that such is not the case. We will consider the report for a few moments.

Without diving into the details of the columns which on the first page record the *Quarterly returns to Grand Division of Nova Scotia, for term ending Sept. 20th, 1864*, we yet observe at the bottom of the calculations, that 400 members were admitted into the order and that 399 members were expelled: 11 deaths are recorded. The sad conclusion is forced upon us that the Temperance cause in Nova Scotia gained 400 and lost 410. This is a dire revelation. True friends of Temperance, however, will be rendered still sadder, when they read the following remarks of the G. W. P. (whoever those letters may represent) upon the progress made by the order during the past year.

In coming before you at the present time I have great pleasure in reporting the Order, throughout the jurisdiction so far as information has been received, as generally in a healthy and prosperous condition. It is true, there are exceptions; and it is matter of deep regret that some few divisions have only "a name to live," and now and then the votaries of Baccus rejoice over the downfall of one from which life has taken its departure; *yet we are more than compensated for the loss, by the new accessions to our numbers, which during the past year will compare favourably with any previous year of our history as a Grand Division.* This statement is confirmed by the Grand Scribe's report, to which you are referred for statistics. I may say however, generally, that since our last annual meeting fifteen new Divisions have been instituted, four old ones have resumed operations, and there has been a large increase of membership.

That the Grand Division should lose annually 10 members, may be a subject of congratulation to the G. W. P.—it yet hardly justifies him in the bold assertion that there has been a large increase of membership. Let us hope that this is a mistake and nothing more. The G. W. P. in another paragraph opens our eyes to a system of sin, which it appears overcomes all the power of the august body which he leads.

For it is a fact that cannot be winked out of sight, that, during the late political campaign, above referred to in which our Province became so thoroughly agitated with the various questions which divided asunder the public mind, too many professed Sons of Temperance, in the heat of political excitement forgot, or at all events disregarded the sacredness and solemnity of the pledge they took on becoming members of the order; and not only forfeited their own "sacred honor as men and as Sons of Temperance," but made use of the cursed beverage to accomplish their purposes, regardless of the evil consequences which must inevitably follow.

Whilst this is a sufficient plea for Mr. Longley's refusal to combat the electors of Annapolis—it is hardly sufficient to account for the unsatisfactory state of the Temperance cause during the past year. There has been no general election. The delegates did not travel through the Provinces. No unusual excitement of any kind prevailed. Even had such been the case, it would afford no excuse