GRAND DIVISION—SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

G. W. P.'s REPORT.

To the Officers and Members of the Grand Division, S. of T. of P. E. Island.

Worthy Brothers;

A year having elapsed since you were pleased to confer upon me the honor of filling the chair of this Grand Division, it now devolves upon me, to present you with my last Quarterly Report.

I am sorry to learn that in a few instances—and I believe they are but few—exceptions have been taken to certain portions of my July Quarterly Report. I cannot but think, however, that that Report has either been altogether misunderstood or wilfully and purposely misrepresented—perhaps both. Whilst simply affirming what I believed to be "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," I was desirous to avoid making any statement which could not be fully substantiated and borne out by *facts;* and although a bald negative has, it is true, been given to my statements, in no very polite or courteous terms, by parties who either are or ought to be better informed on these subjects—the assertions I then made still remain uncontroverted, and, I believe, incontrovertible.

It is a very easy matter to raise the cry of *Political Partizanship*, and to charge us, as a body, with a dereliction of our professed principles; but it is quite another thing to substantiate these charges by adequate proof; and until those who have raised this "hue and cry" are prepared to advance something like the shadow of reason for their assertions, we may well rest content, by simply hurling back the base calumny in the teeth of those who have uttered and given currency to it. In the meantime, as far as I am personally concerned, I fearlessly challenge the parties to whom I refer to shew, that in a single instance I have anything "extenuated, or aught set down in malice."

Under these circumstances, Worthy Brothers, you will pardon me, I trust, if I devote to the consideration of this matter a somewhat larger space, in my present Report, than I should, otherwise, have thought of doing.

It is clear, I think, that the Order of the Sons of Temperance—individually and collectively—have long since made up their minds on one point, viz: THAT THE LEGALIZED SANCTION OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC MUST, SOONER OR LATER, CEASE; *and the consequent necessity, propriety and practicability of Legislative interference.* This subject—so far from being a "new idea"—a mere "Yankee notion"—has, at various times, and for a lengthened period, engaged the serious attention of the ablest and best men, both in Church and State, of our own Country, as well as of the United States.

The Reverend JOHN WESLEY, about a century ago, delivered his sentiments on this subject in the following energetic terms:—

"It is amazing that the preparation and selling of this *poison* should be permitted, I will not say in any Christian country, but in any civilized state."

After denouncing the gain of the traffic as the *price of blood*, he proceeds as follows:—

"Let not any lover of mankind open his mouth to extenuate the guilt of it. Oppose it as you would the devil, whose offspring and likeness it is! *None can gain in this way, by swallowing up his neighbor's substance, without gaining the* DAMNATION OF HELL!"

On the 21st February, 1743, when the Gin Act was under discussion in the British House of Peers, the celebrated Lord CHESTERFIELD, who, I presume, will scarcely be ranked by any as a "fanatic," or "Blue-law" advocate, delivered his sentiments with a clearness and cogency of reasoning rarely surpassed, if equalled, in the present day. His memorable words on that occasion are well worthy of perusal and preservation:

"*Luxury*, my Lords, is to be taxed, but *vice* PROHIBITED, let the difficulty in the law be what it will. Would you lay a tax upon a breach of the *ten commandments?* Would not such a tax be wicked and scandalous? Would it not *imply* an *indulgence* to all those who could pay the tax? *Vice*, my lords, is not properly to be taxed, but SUPPRESSED; and heavy taxes are sometimes the only means by which that suppression can be attained. *Luxury*, or that which is only pernicious by its *excess*, may very properly be taxed,—that such excess, though not strictly unlawful, may be made more difficult. But the use of those things which are simply *hurtful in* their own nature, and in every degree, is to be PROHIBITED. None, my lords, ever heard, in any nation, of a tax upon *theft* or *adultery*, because a tax implies a *license* granted for the use of that which is taxed, to all who are willing to pay for it. Drunkenness, my lords, is universally, and in all circumstances, an EVIL, and therefore ought not to be taxed, but *punished*. The noble lord has been pleased kindly to inform us, that the trade of *distilling* is very extensive—that it employs great numbers—and that they have arrived at exquisite skill—and therefore the trade of distilling is not to be discouraged! Once more, my lords, allow me to wonder at the different conceptions of different understandings. It appears to me that since the spirits which distillers produce are allowed to *enfeeble the limbs, vitiate the blood, pervert the heart*, and *obscure the intellect*, that the *number* of distillers should be no argument in their favor,—for I never heard that a law against *theft* was repealed or delayed because thieves were numerous! It appears to me, my lords, that really, if so formidable a body are confederate against the *virtue* or the *lives* of their fellow citizens, it is time to put an end to the *havoc*, and to interpose, whilst it is yet in our power, to stop the *destruction*. So little, my lords, am I affected with the merit of the wonderful skill which distillers are said to have attained, that it is, in my opinion, no faculty of great use to mankind to prepare PALATABLE POISON; nor shall I ever contribute my interest for the reprieve of a *murderer*, because he has, by long practice, obtained great dexterity in his trade. If their liquors are so delicious that the people are tempted to their own destruction, let us, at least, my lords, SECURE them from their *fatal* draught, by *bursting the vials that contain them.* LET US CRUSH AT ONCE THESE ARTISTS IN HUMAN SLAUGHTER, WHO HAVE RECONCILED THEIR COUNTRYMEN TO SICKNESS AND RUIN, AND SPREAD OVER THE PITFALLS OF DEBAUCHERY SUCH BAIT AS CANNOT BE RESISTED! I am very far, my lords, from thinking that there are, this year, any peculiar reasons for tolerating *murder;* nor can I conceive why this manufacture is to be held sacred now, if it is to be destroyed hereafter."

Happy would it have been for Britain, had Lord Chesterfield's advice prevailed; but unfortunately the majority of the Legislature took a different and more *liberal* view of the matter; and the country has been reaping the legitimate though bitter fruits of their mistaken—perhaps well-meant—policy, in tears and blood, in pauperism and crime, to the present day!

The principle of PROHIBITION having thus been repudiated—as an absurd and fanatical interference with the "liberty of the subject," I presume—the British Legislature has, nevertheless, found it necessary to undertake to REGULATE OR RESTRAIN, to some extent, at least, the pernicious traffic—with what success, the present deplorable state of both England and Scotland—to say nothing of Ireland, just now—abundantly testifies.

Following the same line of policy, our own Legislature has, from its first establishment, also found it necessary, or at all events *profitable*, to place some restrictions upon the Traffic, by insisting upon the payment of a pecuniary consideration from those engaged in it, in any and every shape, and imposing penalties, by fine and imprisonment, upon all who, without the authority of a License from the Government might presume to deal in the dangerous article! But our legislators have found it no easy matter to secure obedience even to their *moderate* requirements. Accordingly, if we consult our Statute Book, we shall find, that scarcely a session has been allowed to pass without the adoption of some amendment or alteration of the existing laws on this troublesome subject, with the view of rendering them more effectual, until, at length, the various enactments for the Regulation of the Liquor Traffic form no inconsiderable portion of the volume just referred to, and must, of themselves, have swallowed up no small portion of the revenue arising thereunder.

The Legislature having, thus, most pertinaciously refused to adopt a more straightforward, rational and consistent course—contenting itself with abortive and futile attempts at legislation, when the most energetic measures should have been adopted to remedy the evil—the whole matter of *prevention* and *cure* was left in the hands of other parties, who, although possessing the disposition, were destitute of the means of effectually meeting the exigencies of the case.

Moral suasion—now so much lauded by certain parties,—has, for the last thirty or forty years, by means of the pulpit, the platform and the press, been almost the only agency [illegible] to remedy the evil, combinations have been formed, and Societies and Associations of various descriptions organized—all of which have been gradually though very perceptibly doing their appointed work. Much immediate and present good has thus been accomplished. But, on the whole, the results hitherto achieved have been anything but satisfactory—the true *panacea*—the world's *catholicon*—appears still to be wanting. The reason, I think, is obvious. No sooner is one poor besotted inebriate rescued from debauchery and degradation, from vice and misery, than another victim of the accursed traffic is found fully prepared, fitted and qualified in every respect, to take his place. Others again, after having been restored to society, their families and friends, through the self-denying exertions of the friends of Temperance, are, ever and anon, being seduced into their former destructive and ruinous habits by the same disreputable instruments and their emissaries, who never fail, in such cases, to gloat over their victim in fiendish triumph, and in a way far more worthy of the inhabitants of the bottomless pit, than of human beings, however fallen or degraded. In spite, therefore, of all the efforts hitherto put forth, the ranks of the Intemperate are ever on the increase—the statistics of crime are as appalling as ever. The giant moral and social EVIL OF THE DAY, in all its hideousness and loathsomeness, still exists, ceaselessly exerting its mephitic influences, and extending its ramifications in all directions, both by day and by night. Thus, then, have these benevolent efforts been mocked, derided and defeated, and multitudes of our fellow-creatures, with bellish malignity, consigned to premature and dishonored graves!

All this being admitted, it is scarcely to be wondered at that superficial observers, regarding our crusade as hopeless, should counsel a retrograde movement. Others possessed of more boldness than wisdom or philanthropy, with the utmost self complacency, disburden themselves, in some such strains as these: "You see that all your efforts, hitherto, have proved abortive, or nearly so. Man is the same *thirsty* animal he ever was. He cannot exist without *rum*, *whisky*, or stimulating liquor of some sort. He has a *natural appetite* for strong drink, which must and will be gratified. If, therefore, he drink to excess, and entail ruin and destruction upon himself and others, let him do so—that is no business of yours: have it he will, and you cannot prevent it. Cease, then, this *fanatical* and *insane* attempt to regenerate society—worthy only of a "puritanical" or "Blue-law" age—give up your senseless agitation—'Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die!'"

Worthy Brothers! Shall we listen to such silly declaimers as these, and stultify ourselves by turning our backs, alike on our enemies and the noble cause we have hitherto, with so much ardour, espoused! But, above all, shall we forget our oft-repeated assurances of the Divine sanction and approval of our principles and mode of action, and our confidence in their ultimate triumph and success! I trow not!

Unless I greatly mistake the spirit of the times in which we live, the idea, that the total suppression of the LIQUOR TRAFFIC is the only sure and effectual method of ridding the world of the crime of Drunkenness, is rapidly permeating the whole mass of the thinking and intelligent portion of mankind. Their language to legislators of all creeds and parties, in effect, will ere long be:—'Cease all further attempts to *regulate* this fearful and demoralizing Traffic, and in lieu thereof, not only withdraw the sanction and protection hitherto afforded by the Civil Power to those engaged in it, but proceed at once, and at all hazards, to annihilate the *cause*, and the *effect* must and will infallibly cease!"

On this head, I shall take the liberty to quote a passage or two from the *Weekly Advertiser*, printed by Mr. J. J. Pippy, of this Town, at one time a member of this Worthy Body. In an editorial article, published no farther back than the 17th March last, the writer says:—

"If the temperance party is *sincere* in wishing to make general the adoption of their principles—*if* they look at the Temperance cause as the 'thing needful' to the welfare of society, they must bring it forward as a grand POLITICAL QUESTION, *irrespective of party or faction*, and walk manfully to the polls, and record their votes in favor of such tried friends of the cause as they can depend upon to support and advocate the reformation sought for. A general election is drawing near—for aught we know it may take place next summer, as is surmised by some—and IF the advocates of the measure intend to pursue their object to its final success, they must openly take the field against all opponents, and canvass the country for support, as the advocates of all other reforms have had to do."

This, I take it, is quite unobjectionable. At all events, it indicates pretty correctly the course generally pursued by the Sons of Temperance, at the recent General Election in this Island, which, however, resulted so disastrously for the POLITICAL PARTY of which Mr. Pippy has *latterly* shown himself so ardent an admirer and firm and unflinching supporter. But we must follow this very sapient gentleman a little farther, to come at the gist of his article. Mr. Pippy continues—

"Some men imagine they see a means in this agitation for temperance reform of overturning the *political party* at present in power, or, at any rate, that it will contribute to such a result. This conclusion we believe to be *without the slightest foundation*. Indeed, we are fully aware that if it was supposed by the Sons of Temperance that such was the aim of the immediate promulgators of the measure, it would be the means of disorganizing the whole temperance body. PARTY POLITICS cannot enter into a division room of the Sons, and the friends of temperance would degrade the character of the enterprise they advocate, if they attempted to dabble in the *cesspool* of politics—the *filth* of the latter would pollute the *purity* of the measure, and render it an abhorrence to the virtuous!"

If this last sentence be correctly reasoned out, what becomes of Mr. Pippy's 'grand political question'—'taking the field against all opponents'—'canvassing the country for support'—'walking manfully to the polls'—'recording their votes,' &c. If all these things can be attended to without "*dabbling in the cesspool of politics*," Mr. Pippy must have discovered some mode of accomplishing such *dirty* work strangely at variance with the commonly received notions of the rest of mankind upon these subjects. A little further on, the same *erudite* writer and *cogent* reasoner observes:—

"We expect that men entertaining every shade of political and religious sentiment will join this movement. When the welfare of the Country is at stake, mere *party* distinctions should sink into nothingness, and all of the wise, good and patriotic, unite as one man. Such will have to be the case before the enactment of the prayer of the Petition now before the Legislature—[the Petition of the 2300 '*men, women and children*,' praying for a Prohibitory Liquor Law]—can take place."

If a more heterogeneous mass of absurdity—a more thorough commingling of truth and error, has ever before appeared in print, in this or any other country, compressed within the same space, I would like to see it pointed out; and yet the extracts above given form but a small portion of the entire article—all written in much the same strain! The sum and substance of the whole matter appear to be just this: "As Sons of Temperance, it is your duty to make this (a Prohibitory Liquor Law) a grand question of public policy, and then the battle must be fought at the *polls*. And in order that you may be successful, it is necessary that persons entertaining every shade of political and religious sentiment should join the movement. These must unite—for the very obvious reason, that when the welfare of the country is at stake, mere party distinctions should sink into utter insignificance. Then, and not till then, may you reasonably expect the enactment of a Maine Law. *But then* you must bear in mind, that nothing is to be done for the promotion of the temperance reform likely to result in the overthrow of the *political party at present in power!* Were such a contingency to happen—*although we have at present no dread on that score*—you would at once subject yourselves to the charge of being actuated by party motives,—and party politics, you know, cannot enter into a division-room of the Sons of Temperance," &c. This extraordinary solicitude, on the part of a professed friend and advocate of the Maine Law, for a Government with a *Brewer* and *Distiller* at its head, and without a single friend to such a measure amongst its members, is not the least remarkable feature in this lengthy editorial. Pretty logic indeed! Agitate for the Maine Law—do all you can to secure its enactment—go to the polls like men, and give your votes—for whom? For the very men who would be the last in the world to give their sanction to such a measure!

After this brief and very imperfect exposition of Mr. Pippy's principles—or rather, his abnegation of all principle or consistency—we can scarcely feel surprise, though we may be somewhat indignant, at his subsequent unmanly and treacherous conduct. If he is to be believed, the Order in this Island has been degraded, and its [illegible] threatened with extinction, owing solely to the unworthy and unconstitutional conduct of its presiding officer and other official members!

With the view of correcting any false impressions that might possibly have been occasioned by these scandalous and unfounded charges, I deemed it my duty, a short time since, to meet these assertions with an unqualified denial in one of the public Newspapers of the County; I, at the same time, caused the publication of the able Report of the Committee on the State of the Order, adopted by the National Division last year. This important document has thus not only obtained a wider circulation and become more generally known than would otherwise have been the case, but has also, I am glad to learn, been of essential service, in disabusing the minds of many of our Brethren in the Country districts, into whose hands it had not previously fallen.

At the Annual Session of the National Division, held at Chicago, Ill., in the month of June last—the Journal of which has just been received by our Grand Scribe—I find the Hon. Judge BELTON O'NEALL, the present M. W. P., in his Annual Report to that Body, addressing his Brethren as follows:—

"*Much*, however, still remains for temperance men, and especially for this body, to do, in order successfully to carry out the war against the Liquor Traffic. Reports upon this subject, useful as they have been, in enlightening the public mind and preparing the way for action, cannot be further depended on. *We must act!* To act efficiently, it seems to me, it is necessary that our Missionaries should traverse the country, North, East, South and West, present the evil and the remedy in their proper light, and unite all Orders of Temperance in the *determination to be known at the Polls!* A year of such action may give us the victory: nothing short of it will."

The M. W. Scribe, in his Report, delivered his sentiments on the same subject in the following eloquent strain:—

"The Order is in the finest *harmony* throughout our jurisdiction, and everywhere gives token of renewed zeal and energy in the Temperance cause. As a new phase, clearly marking itself on the spirit and action of the Order, I take pleasure in stating, that the great and vital principle of the prohibition of the Liquor Traffic has become the leading idea. The pledge of Total Abstinence, the reform of intemperate individuals, and the persuasion of others into organization, are no longer felt to be sufficient to the calls of society, or acknowledged as the primary action of the Sons of Temperance. It has become the sense of the Order, with much unanimity, that the Liquor Traffic must die to save the lives and happiness of our people, and the general integrity and prosperity of the community. To this result it is freely engaging itself, and with the strength of its compact and adaptive organization, once rightly brought into action, and the manful exertion of its consequent mighty will, God blessing it, our great cause must triumph."

The Committee to whom the M. W. Patriarch's Report was referred, respond to the passage above quoted in the following terms:—

"Your Committee feel assurance that upon this subject one common sentiment, one electric moral impulse, pervades our whole Order; and no doubt can for a moment be entertained, that under the guidance of an all-wise Providence, the activities of the Sons of Temperance, so warmly urged in the Report of the M. W. P., will continuously move onward, to the consummation of the mighty purpose of total prohibition, by legislative enactments, through the length and breadth of the land."

And the Committee on the State of the Order, to whom was referred the Resolutions from the Grand Division of Rhode Island, asking to have "expunged from all the Rituals, Rules, Constitutions and Laws of the Order, every expression which in any degree or manner may imply, that its members are *not* bound to use all their influence, political as well as social, religious as well as moral, to accomplish the great object of their organization," report as follows:—

"That no action is necessary to be had by this body on this subject: *Because*—It is plainly deducible from our entire Ceremonies that the allusion to *politics* and *religion* refers to those topics as distinct and independent subjects. For instance, we are not, as an Order, to aim at advancing the peculiar interests and views of any party in politics, or any sect in religion. It never was contemplated, that Sons of Temperance should forget their principles, or be false to them in the discharge of their duties as Christians or as citizens. It is abhorrent to every man's sense of consistency and right to profess a love of temperance, and connect himself with our Order, and assume its obligations, and then, as a citizen of the State, do any act opposed to his cherished principles. *Wherever the* ENEMY *is found*—whether in the *Church* or in the *State*—no true Son of Temperance will turn his back upon him, or give him AID OR COMFORT, without being guilty of gross inconsistency, and violating his solemn obligation."

These various extracts show, Worthy Brothers, beyond the possibility of cavil or dispute, the sense of the Supreme Branch of our Order with respect to *political* interference—not, of course, for *party* or *sectarian* objects, but in order to the attainment of that which we conceive to be of paramount importance—the removal of the greatest curse with which civilized society has for long been, and still is, afflicted, and the attainment of a great, permanent, and universal blessing in its stead—in the shape of an efficient PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW.

A few words with regard to the operation of the Law itself: Fortunately, we are not here left to grope our way in the dark. The experiment has been *tried*, and found to work admirably—notwithstanding the determined and persevering hostility of the manufacturers and vendors of the proscribed article. These worthies remind one very forcibly of those who, in former times, gained a livelihood by making shrines for the Goddess Diana. Clearly foreseeing that unless they can succeed in galling the public—and that speedily—and by that means effect a repeal of the obnoxious Statute, they will be driven to the necessity of seeking a livelihood in a more honest, though, perhaps, less lucrative line of business, they have raised, as might naturally be expected, a tremendous clamor and uproar, and strive, with all their might, to persuade themselves and others, that the law is a complete farce—a perfect failure—a gross delusion—all humbug, and so forth. "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" Among the *weighty* objections to this law, it has been gravely asserted, that it "is a shield to protect the seller, an encouragement to the hard-working man to gain an easy living by opening a groggery, and making the room which answered for a kitchen and bed-room, answer also for a grog-shop!" Strange as it may seem that men can be found stupid enough to pen such nonsense as this, as an objection to the Maine Law, it is amusing to observe with what avidity every paragraph of a similar character—no matter how worthless the source from whence it emanates,—is seized on by a portion of our Island Press, whilst everything of an opposite tendency is as studiously excluded—as far as they are concerned—from the light of day. Let me, therefore, invite your attention to a few testimonies from persons of acknowledged veracity and character, and whose means and opportunities of judging of the good or evil effects of this celebrated LAW, are of the most ample and favorable description.

The Rev. Mr. HADLEY, Minister at large to the poor of Portland, the chief city of the State of Maine, writes as follows:—

"The duties of my profession do not allow me much time or opportunity to write or speak on the subject of Temperance or the Maine Law, or to attend meetings where these subjects are discussed; but when such *gross and abominable falsehoods are fabricated*, and sent out from this place, I could let nothing short of immediate calls to attend upon the sick or dying, hinder me from contradicting them. I am prepared to say, that during my residence here as a Minister to the poor for the space of four years and five months, there never has been less demand for charity, in cases where intemperance has been the cause, than during the past five months. As to there being "more drinking in Portland than ever," this is such a REMARKABLE FALSEHOOD that it needs no refutation here.

"Now, admitting—what is proveable to a demonstration—that about a million and a quarter of gallons was manufactured here; and what appears to be undoubted—that almost as much more was brought here from abroad, besides what came through the Custom House, which was a "drop of a bucket," so we have the tiny little amount of two and a-half millions of gallons, when our population was not more than sixteen or seventeen thousand. We ought to have at least four millions now, to make the proportion equal. How is it? Have we really more than one thousand gallons a week brought into this city in coat pockets, flour barrels and cases in imitation of Bibles? I do not believe it. It is true that there is a little illicitly smuggled in, and that occasionally some of our "promising" young men are "guzzling" it in their rooms. What then? Why, the Law has not yet wholly annihilated the use of alcohol, nor corrected the vicious habits of all the slaves of appetite. But it has CLOSED MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED *GROG SHOPS*, AND STOPPED THE OPEN TRADE ENTIRELY! We have NOT NOW A DROP MANUFACTURED HERE—NONE COMES THROUGH THE CUSTOM HOUSE, and most of that which is used is secreted in Irish dens."

J. B. CALHOUN, Esq., Mayor of Portland, in a letter addressed to a gentleman in Ohio, says:—

"We have no public drinking houses or shops where Liquor is publicly sold, and our City is very quiet. But few cases of intemperance are seen, and the cause of Crime before our last Court were much less than for some years previous. * * So far as meets the public eye, there has been a very great improvement in our City, under the operation of the Law."

The Editor of the *Montreal Witness*, who recently paid a visit to Portland, observes:—

"There are, perhaps, twenty or thirty places in Portland—perhaps not half as many—where Liquor may be secretly obtained; but in Montreal, Kingston or Toronto, nearly every tenth house is an open and undisguised grog-shop; and in some, the proportion is even higher; so that intemperance is multiplied on every hand, and stalks forward unrebuked, promoting rioting, bloodshed, impurity, murder, and all evil. In fact, there is no end to be to comparison between the condition of Portland, in a temperance point of view, and any of those Cities. There was, we may add, no appearance of liquor any where, on tables, or in bar rooms and it was only the appearance of persons frequenting one or two of the hotels that led us to suppose they got it somewhere. In country places the law is much more efficient."

Professor Stowe, the husband of the celebrated authoress of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," gives the following satisfactory testimony on this subject:—

"I never saw a Law that operated so beautifully and vindicated itself so nobly as that Law does. * * A friend of mine in Portland, one of the wealthiest men in Maine, had been very much opposed to the Law, having, prior to its passing, opened a distillery worth $10,000, which then was rendered valueless for distilling purposes. No doubt he grumbled a little, but in less than six months after the Law was in operation he came forward in public lecture and stated that if he had ten distilleries he would go for that law, such was the improvement he saw around him; it would compensate for all the loss. * * In some towns pauperism had entirely ceased. In others, where there had been many paupers, there was not one. Even the jails were empty, and their keepers advertised them to let."

These extracts, it will be readily perceived, have all, more or less, been sadly curtailed and mutilated, but they are sufficient to our present purpose. One more, and I have done.

The EDITOR of the *North Western Christian Advocate*—a relative, it is said, of the celebrated Richard Watson—in a trenchant article in favor of Temperance and the Maine Law, thus discourses:—

"Like the inventions of steam and the telegraph, the Maine Law is fast becoming self-demonstrative before the eyes of the country. The experiment has been entered upon, and it will be thoroughly tested. Opposition to it is not that of principle, but of faction;—not demonstration, but depravity. 'Appetite and the pocket are the Bible and hymn-book, the inspiration and logic of the opposition. Eternal truth, divinely inbued, constitutes the temperance creed. And however varied the modes of prosecuting the glorious reform, the everywhere multiplying disciples of this creed are being actuated by a unity of view and spirit, that will soon costitute them one of the strongest bodies of reformers the world ever saw. And in view of our country's position as the great refuge of oppressed nations, and cradle of millential elements in their highest perfection—as the model nation whose mission shall be to all people—who can ponder the present and the future of the great temperance movement of the country, and not see in it the hand and smile of God, pointing mankind on to a brighter future—a higher destiny? We tread here upon ground that is holy—we ascend the mount of vision; we tremble under the weight of revealed responsibility, and feel that work, in this great cause, is a luxurious worship. Opposition must melt away like untimely snows in the lap of summer."

Before I dismiss this subject, I feel bound to state, that from all I can learn from P. G. W. P. ARBUCKLE, and from other sources, the principle of legal prohibition of the Liquor Traffic is daily becoming more and more popular throughout this Island; and that it is probable the Petition which has been distributed throughout the country by your direction, will, this year, be much more numerously signed than that of last Winter. Greater care will also be observed with respect to signatures, in order to prevent all cavilling on that score, when the matter is again brought before the Legislature.

The Division to which I referred, in my last Report, as about being established at Margate, has, I am happy to inform you, been regularly installed, under the most favourable auspices, and is now in active operation. Its prospects are, I am pleased to learn, of a very flattering description; and I trust it may long remain, to diffuse the blessing of Temperance throughout that section of the Island.

It is quite probable that, ere long, a Division will be opened at Murray Harbour, where we already have many staunch friends and well-wishers.

For the statistics of the Order, and other matters of a purely local character, I must refer you to the Report of our Worthy G. S., and the various Deputies' Reports appended hereto.

I regret that circumstances of a private nature have prevented my visiting personally the various Country sections where Divisions are or have been located, as well as those Districts where, although no Divisions have yet been established, many ardent and devoted friends of the cause are to be found, as frequently as I could have wished. I have, however, during my term of office, been enabled to visit some of the more flourishing and populous settlements, and have travelled, solely at my own cost and charge, over a considerable portion of the Island, extending from Grand River, in King's County, to Lot 11, in Prince County, and have attended large and interesting meetings in several of the intervening Settlements. At all of these, the Maine law was the all-engrossing topic of discussion. I have also had the honor of presiding at a goodly number of public meetings in the spacious Hall in which we are now assembled—all having the same benevolent object in view.

Before closing this Report, I feel that a tribute of respect—however feeble—is justly due to our Worthy Brother, JAMES JOHNSON, Esq., P. G. W. P. and Travelling Lecturer of the Province of New Brunswick. Brother Johnson kindly visited the Island and delivered a series of Lectures, to large and intelligent, audiences in this Hall, in the month of August last. His disinterested labours and eloquent appeals will, I am sure, be long remembered, as they are, no doubt less, highly appreciated, by all who had the rare privilege of listening to him. Bro. Johnson also lectured with great acceptance at Bedeque.

In now retiring from the honourable and responsible position to which you were kindly pleased, twelve months ago, to elevate me, I feel that my warmest acknowledgments are due to you, Officers and Brethren, for the kind and generous cooperation I have invariably experienced at your hands. I have, on all occasions, though feebly and very imperfectly, endeavoured fearlessly and impartially to discharge my official duties. Over my many failings and shortcomings, you have generously thrown the mantle of forgetfulness—my errors, I trust, have been those of the head, not of the heart, and these you have, I feel persuaded, already consigned to oblivion. And at the close of my term of office, I have the proud satisfaction of knowing, that not one jarring note or discordant string has been struck during its continuance. On the contrary, our work has been, if not ably and efficiently performed, at least "accomplished in harmony." And I entertain the sanguine hope, that in other and abler hands, and possibly under more favorable circumstances, and notwithstanding the evil prognostications and gross misstatements and calumnies of our secret and open enemies, the cause of Temperance, and the order of the Sons, as the chief guardian and promoter of that glorious cause, will flourish yet more and more, in perpetual and undying verdure, and ultimately fill the land with blessings of incalculable and untold value.

JAMES B. COOPER, G. W. P.

TEMPERANCE HALL, Charlottetown, Nov. 1853.

At an adjourned Session of the Grand Division, held this evening, the Committee to whom was referred the Annual Report of G. W. P. COOPER, submitted their Report thereon, which Report was, on motion, unanimously adopted, and is as follows:—

REPORT:

We have much pleasure in approving of the Report of the G. W. P. for the last Quarter, and fully concur in the sentiments set forth in the several quotations brought forward in that document, which very ably and seasonably sustain the Sons of Temperance in their firm determination, as expressed some time since, to abolish the Liquor Traffic and procure for this Island, by every lawful means, the enacting out of the MAINE LAW.

(Signed) JOHN ANDERSON,
D. RITCHIE GERARD,
T. E. BARTON,
P. DESBRISAY, G. S.

A true extract.
P. DESBRISAY, G. S.