

THE ABSTAINER.

ORGAN OF THE GRAND DIVISION OF THE
SONS OF TEMPERANCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

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Fidelity--Union--Perseverance.

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IMPORTANT DOCUMENT.

OFFICE OF M. W. PATRIARCH,
N.-D., S. OF T., B. N. A.
Des Moines, Iowa, Feb'y. 23, 1857.

To the Grand and Subordinate Divisions,
and Officers and Members of the Order
of Sons of Temperance of N. America.

I am constrained by a profound sense of duty to the Order of the Sons of Temperance and the Cause it seeks to promote, as well as by the advice of honoured and experienced friends to address to you this Circular Letter.

Our ancient, grand and most useful Order, is in imminent peril from the deadly sin of apathy. A general and individual listlessness has been begotten by the stirring themes of the past few years, which I appeal to you to obliterate. You, and you only, Men and Brethren, hold the power, and I charge you to use it as TRUE MEN for the sake of your Order and the Cause.

If the Order of Sons of Temperance was instituted by its founders only as a "beneficial society" to prove a mutual assurance of aid in sickness and need, and to accumulate funds to which its members might look, and in the increase of which they might find a sufficient reward for constant counsels and undivided attention, their experiment has signally failed.

But if the object of the Order was higher and holier—if it looked to the accomplishment of the greatest good to others, and the extermination of a huge evil—if discarding all considerations of mere selfishness, it aimed to save men from ruin, and remove from the social circle the dangerous bait of a widely consuming mischief, then its history records more and greater triumphs for humanity and virtue than belong to the annals of any other association of this eventful age.

Show me, Worthy Brethren, the Division which has held its position—whose members have faithfully attended to their weekly meetings, maintained a fraternal watchfulness over the tempted ones, and preserved the true spirit of the Order, and I will show its fruits in the lost citizen restored to usefulness—the lost Husband, Father, Neighbor, to wife, children and friends—once poor drunkards spreading misery and wretchedness around them, now sober, industrious and kind, to the utmost fulfilling their relations to society.

Such soul refreshing facts have gladdened us everywhere, and are seen, and felt and known of all men in every locality within our vast jurisdiction where the Order has preserved

its organization and acted in the true spirit of its great enterprise. Our works of LOVE, PURITY and FIDELITY have crowned us with immortal laurels.

But, is our mission over? Are our laurels all won? If so, then we have no cause to regret the indifference of Members or disbandment of Divisions, for the aim of our life is fulfilled. But, is it so? No! Sons of Temperance, it is not so! It can only be so when there are no more lost ones to redeem—no more wives and mothers whose hearts ache because their husbands are besotted and their children are in want and degradation—no more parents whose grey hairs are following ruined sons with sorrow to the grave—and when our Order ceases to reform the drunkard, to lift up its warning hand to the traffic, and to exercise its untold, incalculable influences on the heart of the young who are within its "Circle of Honour" and are thus far saved from the rage of strong drink.

But if the opposites of all these conditions are yet daily attesting themselves, how dare we ground our arms in the midst of the battle? Or how can we disband, with shame, in the face of the enemy—an enemy who, maddened by the recollection of our former triumphs and emboldened by our want of energy, dashes increasing death on our right hand and on our left, and holds up apostates to the Cause as so many living proofs of the failure of our Order to accomplish his aim, or save young or old from his besetting snares.

After many years of experience in the Order, during which I have been constantly and actively engaged in building up its Divisions and endeavouring to promote their harmony and usefulness, I deliberately declare, that, in my judgment, no other Temperance organization is so well fitted as the ORDER OF SONS OF TEMPERANCE, to advance the Cause, redeem the inebriate and preserve him from relapse to former habits and at the same time save our youth from taking the first fatal steps that lead to destruction. And I believe, as remarked to the National Division on a recent occasion, that there is no means by which we can impress the public mind in any locality so readily and thoroughly and permanently, as by keeping up in it an active, brave and faithful Division of Sons of Temperance; hence I am fully persuaded of the important duty in our present condition of once more turning our attention systematically and perseveringly to the recruiting service of the Order, believing if we do so we shall conquer success, and once more go forth to struggle for the right in all the power and freshness of earlier days.

Let us vow then upon the Altars of our

pure and noble Order that this SHALL be done.

If we will it, and act,—we can achieve this, and more. Our beloved Order has yet within itself all its former great capabilities for good, and high capacities for results; and only needs to have its Sons once more aroused and rallied beneath its banners to take its place in the arena as a thing of life and power.

To thus arouse and recall to our ranks the inactive and lethargic is the duty of every awakened Son of Temperance. Let, as all, of every station in the Order, work together to this end. Let every man and brother, of every capacity and every talent, bow down with all his energies to this as a chief object.

Let Son challenge Son to excellence in this effort, and Division provoke Division to superiority in the matter.

Let our Division Rooms be filled again as of yore—the glory still hovers in them; let us gather together as of old, and we shall again see its rays. Let us crowd our Halls again, and in them, again show our love for the Order, the Brethren and Mankind.

Nothing so stirs the blood of men to great and noble deeds, to achievements of high enterprise, to works of worth and goodness, as the visible co-operation and emulation of fellow men. Nothing so enhances the attraction of the Division Room to members, as the presence of fellow members. As heat begets heat—as cold cold, as love love, and hate hate, so attendance at, and absence from our Rooms respectively beget zeal or indifference. And this I hold to be one of those great primary principles which underlie all our hopes of success. Attend the meetings, Brethren, and you will supply the general source from which all other good will spring into new life and activity. Old members will be warmed back to us, and new ones will come cheerily to unite themselves with the power and beauty of our work and pledge.

Try it brothers—try it firmly—faithfully. Try continuous attendance on your meetings in the old brotherly, cordial way of the Order. Be instant in saving men as of old from the fangs of the destroyer, and bring them for protection, and as a joy into your Rooms, and love and confidence and power and triumph will glance from the eyes of our great Order again.

Slowly, but of a surety, it will rise up once more like a giant awakened from slumber, and with mighty voice and deeds reassure the friends of Temperance and again deal consternation to its enemies.

Nothing will answer our hopes, my Brethren, like this. Ingenious Degrees, amen-