

be in favour of granting licenses—also in the habit of allowing any quantity of liquors to be imported in his vessel, and of using it as a beverage himself?

Your's, &c.,

INTERROGATOR.

In our opinion, there can be no doubt on the subject. We shall get the victory at last; but it will not be, till Temperance men are faithful to pledge and principle at all polling places.

Our readers will peruse with pleasure the communications from Sydney, C. B., and Chester. Other brethren, it is hoped, will follow the example of those correspondents.

WANTED.—A large subscription list for the *Abstainer*. Thanks to those who support us. If every subscriber will procure another, we shall be still more thankful. *Support the Press.*

*To the Subordinate Divisions of the Sons of Temperance of the Province of Nova Scotia.*

OFFICERS AND BRETHREN,—

At the commencement of my term of office as G. W. P. of the G. D. of our Order, in this Province, it may not be out of place to offer you a few suggestions connected with the interests of the cause of Temperance in our midst.

The Sons of Temperance are universally acknowledged as the leaders in this great moral enterprise in this Province. Such being the position assigned us, in the Providence of God, our responsibilities are correspondingly great. We must see to it that our numbers do not diminish, but increase, and that we put forth efforts in keeping with our position and resources; and also that we act consistently and energetically in view of the exigencies of the case. You will see, in referring to the Journal of the Annual Session recently held in Halifax, and to the "Reports" of your late G. W. P. and G. S., that our numbers are not on the increase, but on the contrary exhibit a considerable falling off. Various reasons have been assigned for this retrograde movement. I will not now advert to these reasons, but would urge the consideration of the first as abundant cause why we should set ourselves with renewed zeal to revive the Order. We commence this year under auspicious cir-

cumstances. The spirit breathed by the Annual Session, as manifest by the Journal, is such as is fitted to quicken the Subordinate Divisions with new life.—We have reaffirmed in the most distinct and positive manner that "Prohibition" is our watchword—that it is right—that it is constitutional. We have in effect pledged ourselves to endeavour by every proper means in our power to effect such a change of our Legislature as that the wishes of the Temperance people of this Province shall be respected. This is taking, in my opinion, the proper ground, and such as is calculated to fire every true Temperance man with fresh resolution and energy.

The Grand Division has been fortunate in securing the services of a Grand Scribe, whose past efforts in the cause of Temperance and the Order, are sufficient guarantee that the duties of that office will be faithfully and zealously discharged. I wish to call your serious attention to these words in his last Report, "Look to Maine, the pioneer in the cause of Prohibition. See how nobly her people have again come out in favour of the Law, notwithstanding the exultations of its opponents at what they considered to be the final suppression of all agitation by the action of the voters in 1855. How nobly did her sons redeem themselves—on the 8th of September last—by triumphantly returning one of the candidates for the office of Governor—who is an avowed Prohibitionist—with a majority of between 15,000 and 16,000 votes. Let us imitate the example of our brethren in Maine," &c. Memorable words! Give heed to them, Sons of Temperance in Nova Scotia. It must come to this—what we have scarcely yet thought to do in this Province. We must do as they do in Maine—VOTE THE TRAFFIC DOWN.

Appeals to the Legislature will not do. It is a waste of time, money and energy, so to do. The G. D. have wisely determined to pursue a different course—in a word to do as they have done in Maine, and in every other community where the Law has been carried into successful operation,—go with their principles to the polls. It is there, and only there, where we can make ourselves sensibly felt, and where our efforts can be carried to a proper issue.

Sons of Temperance, become more

thoroughly combined with your own principles. Know that in this struggle there is involved the greatest political principle of the age, which cannot consistently be set aside for any mere party question whatsoever. Interfere with no view or predilection of a political nature which involves a denial of your Temperance principles. Seek to pervade all parties with your views, but go with none of them any farther than they will go with you. Let them not control you, but seek to control them, because you consider Temperance legislation of supreme and fundamental importance, and which must not be sacrificed at the shrine of party interests. Know no man as a politician or candidate for legislative honours who is not a known and pledged prohibitionist. Do as they have done in Maine, and similar results will follow your action.

I congratulate you on the appearance of your organ, the *Abstainer*. Let it be sustained. It gives its advocacy to the views I have set forth. It gives me unfeigned pleasure to state that the officers, the Minutes, and the organ of the G. D. show that the Order in this Province is committed to the action here recommended. We have assumed high vantage ground. Let it be uncompromisingly maintained. We commence the work *de novo*. Let us learn wisdom from the past, and gird on the armour afresh with the determination that we will not be diverted from our purpose by the specious arguments of interested politicians addressed to our party feelings and prejudices. Be, for the next three years, men of one idea,—as inflexibly wedded to Temperance political action, as ever a Wilberforce, or a Clarkson was, to the abolition of Slavery and the Slave Trade. Other bodies, both in our own and other countries, are marching to this point—the creation of Temperance Legislatures. The Watchmen Order—a growing band of Temperance reformers in this country—say in the Journal of the proceedings of their recent Convention, "Prohibition is the most important question that appears on our political horizon, and should be made the issue when the public are next called upon to exercise their elective franchise." "The polls," say they "is the most effective method of securing the object desired." They have resolved "that Temperance men should support