

## REPORT OF THE GRAND SCRIBE.

*Officers and Representatives:*

The report of our work in this jurisdiction during the last quarter would seem to indicate that the tide of progress which, during the last two years, has borne us steadily along on its surface, had at length reached its height. Some one has said "it is not the law of human nature to be equally excited upon the same subject at all times"—that a period of excitement must inevitably be followed by a period of reaction. This may be true—true of societies as well as of individuals. And such a reaction may be in reserve for us among the things that are inevitable. But the Grand Division may be assured that in the reports which have reached this office, there is not sufficient evidence to warrant us in coming to the conclusion that such a reaction threatens our Order at the present moment. It is true that the causes for gratulation are not equal to those which have met us at some other sessions of the Grand Division—that there are signs of weakness where six months ago there was strength, apathy where there was enthusiasm, torpor where there was activity. But this state of things is to be accounted for by reasons which fully explain it, nor is there any ground whatever for surrendering our cherished hope and expectation that our Order will continue to grow in strength and influence until its great purposes are accomplished.

The uncertainty which prevails in reference to the liquor laws, the difficulty of enforcing C. T. Act, the prevalence of intemperance, and the activity and defiant attitude of the liquor dealers, have produced a feeling of depression and despondency in some of our Divisions, and have somewhat affected their membership and the attendance at their weekly meetings. But the rank and file of our Divisions have enlisted "for the war," and are patiently waiting for that grand consummation to which the course of events inevitably tends.

## STATISTICS.

Two hundred and twenty Divisions have sent to this office their returns for the quarter ending December 31. Sixty-eight are delinquent. From information received at this office it appears that owing either to the unusual severity of the weather, or to claims of Union Religious Services, or to both of these causes combined, many of our Divisions had failed to hold a single meeting in the month of January. A considerable number of our Divisions which are located in sections which are sparsely settled, and which are reached by the mails but twice a week, can, under the most favorable circumstances, hold but two meetings in January before their returns must be despatched to this office; and when any circumstance occurs, therefore, to prevent the installation of officers within this limited period, (as is frequently the case) their returns come to hand too late. It is worthy of consideration, therefore, whether the time allotted to Divisions for filing their returns in the Grand Scribe's office should not be extended from the 26th to the end of the month—thus allowing them four or five more days.

The following is the summary of the quarter's work, compiled from the Returns in the hands of the Grand Scribe, viz: