

errors in their advocacy of Temperance; but there was one thing beyond their power, however extravagant they might be, to exaggerate, and that was the evils of intemperance. It was simply impossible to do that."

—The Right Hon. John Bright, of England, gives it as his opinion, and we fully agree with it, "that intemperance is a sin, an awful sin; for drunkards shall not inherit the Kingdom of God. But where does the sin begin?—at the first glass—at the first step towards complete intoxication, or at the sixth, seventh or eighth? Is not every step from the natural state of the system towards the state of turpid intoxication an advance in sin, and a yielding to the unwearied tempter of the soul?"

—Mr. B. Whitehead, M. P., in a London speech, gives this valuable testimony:—"In this matter there was nothing like a personal example. He thanked God that he had a teetotal father who taught him to be an abstainer. He had followed that example all his life. He was now in his sixty-first year, and could bear testimony to the benefit teetotalism had been to him during life."

—Avonbank Division, in the County of Perth, intends opening a new Hall on the 14th October. The Grand Scribe has been invited, and intends to be present on the occasion.

—Plainsville Division has lately been refitting their Hall, and intends shortly holding a public entertainment to defray the expenses incurred.

Correspondence.

REFORM.

To the Editor,

SIR,—When I penned the few words anent "reform," which appeared in the July number of *The Son*, I had no idea that I would be so roundly abused in the Sept. number by "Another

Old Son." But such is my fate. However, I will not attempt to bandy words with a person who cannot write without imputing base motives to his neighbour, but simply say I am not a "snake in the grass," nor have I any wish to "damage a zealous and useful officer."

My whole desire has been, since I became a member of the Order, to help it on, instead of attempting to throw obstacles in the way of its progress, and if I happen to differ from "Another Old Son" as to the manner in which an officer should perform his duties, I suppose I have a perfect right to do so.

The books of the Grand Scribe may be kept correctly, but if the system is all that is claimed for it, how does it happen that the Order seldom or never gets a correct balance sheet? Surely "Another Old Son" will scarcely justify the one presented at the Galt Session.

I will not, however, further discuss this feature of the case, but will now state what I consider a great grievance, viz., the manner in which the G. Treasurer is usually treated. According to our laws he is required to keep in trust all moneys paid into the coffers of the Grand Division, and disburse the same on the authority of the proper officers. Are the moneys of the Grand Division, as they reach the Grand Scribe, handed this official? Certainly not. The Grand Scribe receives and disburses, and at the end of the year hands the G. T. a bundle of "orders to pay," instead of the cash. By this arrangement the G. T. seldom knows anything about our financial affairs, when, in fact, were he treated fairly by the G. S., he would know all about them, and be able to answer a question when put to him as to the affairs of his office, instead of having to refer us for information to the G. S. Our laws never contemplated such a state of things, otherwise the G. Treasurer would not be required to provide bonds for the security of the Grand Division.

Now, with regard to the advice tendered me as to my future course when I wish any grievance removed, I cannot accept it just now, for the simple reason I have no desire to get upon my knees to "high officials" and ask of them favours. I prefer to address myself to the members of the Order through its recognized organ *The Son*; and with your permission, as I have already occupied too much of your space, will resume this and kindred subjects on another occasion.—Yours, etc.,

OLD SON.

THE PER CAPITA TAX.

To the Editor,

SIR,—Your correspondent, J. McM., advocates a reduction of the per capita tax, and brings forward the Good Templars as a proof that it would be a benefit to our Order; but it appears from the report of their proceedings at Hamilton, this week, that the Grand Lodge of Ontario is in financial difficulty; and the advisability of raising the per capita tax was duly discussed by the representatives, therefore, the plan proposed by J. McM. has evidently not been a benefit to the Good Templars, and why should it work better with us? His glowing picture, of "the Order needing neither men to work, nor money to spend in the Cause of Temperance," is not likely to be realized in any such way. The Grand Division has never been overburdened with money for the employment of agents and lecturers. Let Brother J. McM. ask the Grand Scribe how many of even our most prosperous Divisions have sent in contributions to the Lecture Fund this year; and, if I mistake not, he will find that in nearly every case, the matter has been postponed until a more convenient season, which will probably never come. Lecturers and agents cannot be employed without money. The organization of the Sons is low at present and greatly requires working up, and consequently to cripple the Grand Division would