

## THE ABSTAINER.

Halifax, N. S. October 15, 1856.

ANNUAL SESSION OF GRAND DIVISION.—We remind the members of the Order that the Annual Session of the Grand Division will be held in this City on Wednesday the 22nd instant, and succeeding days, commencing each day at 10 o'clock, A. M. A full attendance of Representatives is particularly desirable. Important questions will be brought before the Grand Division. Let every man be at his post.

LET us not be misunderstood. Our Paper is called "THE ABSTAINER," and that name sounds softly. But we wish our readers to know at the outset what we mean. This, then, is our meaning. We mean abstinence from all intoxicating liquors. We mean *total abstinence*. We mean *UNIVERSAL ABSTINENCE*.—We mean that it is not only *our* duty, and the duty of all the friends of Temperance to abstain, but that we must not relax our efforts till our fellow-countrymen and our fellow-creatures everywhere see it to be *their* duty also to abstain.—We wish to see a temperance population in all lands. We desire to have the whole world freed from the curse of strong drink. That is what we mean.

We go further. There are certain methods to be employed without which we are fully of opinion that the result cannot be accomplished. It was long before we yielded to that opinion, for we shrank from the very shadow of the invasion of personal rights. But our scruples have vanished. In fact, what are called rights, and proudly boasted of, are sometimes great wrongs. Every man has a right to do what he will with his own—yet not so as to injure his neighbour, who also has rights which must be equally respected. If it come to that,—if the exercise of an assumed or acknowledged right prove destructive of the peace and good order of society, and ruinous to property, society is bound to interfere. Private interests must give way to the public good. There must be restraint, Prohibition.

We take that ground in the present instance. "PROHIBITION" is the watch-

word. We aim at nothing less. We believe that nothing less will do. And our opponents believe it. The distillers—the hotel and saloon proprietors—the occupiers of grogeries—all believe it. They laugh at licenses and the police, well knowing that as long as the liquor is allowed to be sold their gains are sure; and those gains are wrung from the wretched drunkards whom the traffic has made what they are, and for whose ruin, and that of their families, they are accountable. The drunkards themselves believe in the necessity and advantages of Prohibition. "Shut up the grog-shops," is their cry, "and we are safe."

Shall not their request be granted?—Shall heart-stricken wives and starving children plead in vain? Shall men be suffered to continue to deal out misery, disease and death to their fellow-men? Shall we tolerate the existence of nurseries for the work-house, the jail, and the lunatic asylum, and tamely endure the taxation and trouble they cost us?

Humanity answers, "No!" The decision is echoed by ten thousand voices. Men of all parties unite in upholding it. Conservatives and Liberals, Protestants and Catholics, monarchists and republicans agree here, range themselves under the same banner, and press forwards shoulder to shoulder in resistance to the common foe. It will be our pleasing duty to cheer them on;—if any lag behind, to admonish, and perchance rebuke;—if any faint, to strengthen them;—and to set before all, from time to time, the various motives and encouragements by which they may be stimulated to more strenuous efforts.

That there are objections to the Prohibition policy, and that those objections are still entertained by some who are anxious to be considered as genuine friends of the Temperance cause, we well know. The subject will be examined and discussed in all its bearings, in subsequent numbers. It will suffice for the present to indicate our position. We shall employ our best energies in maintaining and defending it; and it will be our object to prepare the people of Nova Scotia for such a demonstration of their views and purposes in regard to this matter, as shall be proof against all opposition, and all intrigue.

THE negotiations which issued at length in the establishment of this Periodical, occupied more time than had been expected, so that it became necessary to prepare the first number without making all the preliminary provisions which are desirable in such cases. This will account for imperfections and deficiencies in the present issue. Bespeaking the kind indulgence of our friends, we solicit, also, their co-operation. Communications from their pens are earnestly requested. We are particularly desirous of being supplied with authentic information respecting the progress of the cause, accounts of public meetings, and its effects, &c., &c.

Arrangements are in progress for securing correspondents in various parts of the North American Continent, and in Great Britain. We expect to receive very valuable contributions from those quarters.

The extension of Temperance literature is a good sign. We shall report progress in this respect with great satisfaction.

Dr F. Lees, the well known Temperance lecturer and author, has obtained the first prize offered by the United Kingdom Alliance for the best Essay on Prohibition. The prize was one hundred guineas. His work is entitled, "An Argument on the Legislative Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic." The *Alliance and Weekly News* speaks thus of the last two chapters:—

"Resuming our notices of the foregoing Essay of Dr Lees, we may state very briefly that the Seventh Chapter is devoted to a summary of the history of the liquor-traffic and the Maine-law in the United States; opening, however, with an appropriate reference to the difference of the character and circumstances of the inhabitants of Great Britain and the States. It describes the attempts made at an early period in America to regulate the machinery of mischief; adverts to the era of vague temperance, and the reasons of the failure of the movements within that era; proceeds then to treat of the era of total abstinence, and the great impediment which the liquor-traffic was discovered to be in the way of the efforts of the total abstinence party, and thence passes on to deal with the political era of the movement, the great success of the no-license agitation, and the grand epoch of prohibitive state law marked by the passing of the Maine-law of 1846 and 1851. Then we have an account of the Portland riot, and a description of the various interests and factions opposed to the law. The progress of prohibition through Minnesota, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, Michigan, Con-