

good reason why apathy should exist on the part of Divisions in this matter. Widely and popularly known lecturers may not always be secured; this should not interfere as a barrier; speakers can usually be obtained within reasonable reach, and if there was not a sufficient supply, the programme could be supplemented from the members of the Divisions concerned. It sometimes happens that when there is a good list of speakers, some of them are ignored to give an opportunity of carrying out a diverse programme. A few years ago I recollect attending a meeting of a County District Division as a delegate from one of the associated Divisions. The Division under whose auspices it was held, arranged for a mass meeting in the evening after the session; an excellent staff of speakers was secured for the occasion; a very excellent musical programme was also arranged; in either direction the large gathering could be entertained a sufficiently long time; no exception could be taken to the tone and sentiment of the selections, they were an exhibit of pure style and good taste. In this particular they reflected credit on the part of those under whose charge they were selected. If one would not be considered uncharitable in criticising, they might say that they were removed from the theme discussed at the meeting,—temperance. Many of them were quite aside from the temperance question altogether. A great deal of time had been occupied with music; the consequence was that a late hour had come when two of the best speakers had been unheard. Uneasiness became apparent among the audience. The last two speakers, understanding the situation, embodied their speeches in very small compass. An opportunity was lost of fortifying public opinion to the extent that was possible from the material at command, so far as the assemblage was concerned. A clergyman who had appeared on the platform said to a friend after the gathering disappeared, that a mistake had been made by inter-

lacing so much music with the speeches when so many speakers were present. The practice of mingling music with public gatherings of this kind is not to be condemned. It should not so much obtain as to shut out the speakers, there is power and influence in song; the feelings of many are stirred through the pealing ring of music, whose sympathies are not aroused through the public speech. But I think on the occasion of temperance gatherings, the selections should be associated with the theme. There is much that is beautiful in temperance sentiment set to music. There is ample material for elegant and beautiful selections, which may justly serve as a diversity in the public meeting; not only should the music be akin to the theme of the meeting, but the dialogues, recitations, and readings in general should drift in the same direction; the theme should not be lost sight of. Our Divisions should be an important source of light and power; like the sun going forth as a strong man to run his race, lifting his head above the mountain crests, or making his pillow in the briny and frothy billows of the deep, they are dispelling darkness and scattering light; like the full orb'd moon as she sits, queen of night, surrounded by the virgin stars, they shed softness, calmness, and radiance around their pathway, and beautify what comes within the sphere of their influence. The towering light-house buoys with hope the storm-tossed mariner, and warns him against a rock-beaten shore, or directs him to a safe harbour. Our Divisions are beacon-lights, echoing forth their voices of caution against the rocks upon which happiness, reputation, and heaven itself have been lost. Let us then, members, cherishing the principles of our Order, aiming at rescuing the perishing, and saving the fallen, associate with our proceedings in the Division rooms and in public assemblages, a pure, choice, and elevating style of literature; thus we raise high the moral tone of our Divisions, and the reflex influence produced can-

not fail to exhibit itself in the communities around.

JNO. A. BRADLEY.

Invincible Division,
Ilderton, 19th Dec., 1879.

Temperance and Intemperance.

CANON FARRAR recently defended total abstinence before a splendid audience, in the Sheldonian Theatre of Oxford University. The eloquent canon told his audience that he had been instrumental in closing an abominable drinking house in a crowded quarter of London, and "there was not a wretched drunkard in that street who was not secretly grateful to him for doing it." He took up the famous epigram of a certain Lord Bishop that he would "rather have England to be free than England to be sober." Canon Farrar tore the sentiment to shreds, and concluded with this burst of eloquence: "Do not let us then be frightened from the clear imperative path of national duty by the bugbear of a violated liberty. The moth is not free which is only free to plunge into the flame. The ship is not free which is only free to run straight upon the iron shore in the fury of the storm, with no hand of the steersman upon her helm. If freedom is to be another name for 99,000 public houses; for 39,000 beer shops; for 1,537,656 persons arrested for drunkenness and disorder in ten years; for 100,422 cases of assault in one year, of which 2,736 were aggravated assaults on women and children; for 16,525 women drunk and disorderly in London alone last year, and if these be but items in the hideous total of such a freedom—if freedom is to hear the wail of myriads of savage beasts, myriads of desolated homes, then in heaven's name let us have instead of it the beneficent bondage of virtue, the salutary restraint of Christian legislation—for such bondage is above such liberty."

Strive to do right, strive to be true,
You have a work no other can do.