

THE ABSTAINER.

Halifax, N.S. December 15, 1856.

WE beg to call the special attention of the Subordinate Divisions to the seasonable and important address of the G. W. P., which will be found in another column.

SENEX's communication, with his proposed penal clauses, to be embodied in a new License Law, should such an one be framed, or added to the present Law, should it be continued, will probably elicit various thoughts and feelings. Some will entirely approve his propositions, judging that we cannot do better than adopt some such measures, now that there is no present hope of Prohibition. Others will reject them altogether, as unsuitable and impracticable.

Our worthy friend's reasoning amounts to this.—The Legislature, in the last session, suspended action on the Prohibitory Law, till the result of the experiment in New Brunswick should appear, and will not now do any thing, the New Brunswick Law having been repealed; but they have declared themselves in favour of the principle, and are bound to do all in their power to prevent the evils arising from the traffic which they still allow the continuance of; they are aware of those evils, and most of them have been charged by their constituents to remove them out of the way. If, therefore, on whatever grounds, they decline enacting a Prohibitory Law, they cannot refuse to take such steps as may appear best adapted to neutralise the confessedly bad tendencies of the drinking establishments. They are under greater obligations to do this, inasmuch as it is manifestly incumbent on them to give us an effectual substitute for Prohibition, supposing that such a substitute can be found. The only substitute that can be imagined is a stringent License Law, faithfully executed. *Senex* has drafted some clauses for that Law.

Let them try it. If they will not give us Prohibition, let them give us what may be deemed the next best thing to it, but by all means in honesty and good faith, or else they had better let it alone. That is—members of the House must take care not to nullify their own acts,

by assuming one character at Halifax and another at home. And if they wish to gratify the friends of morality and good order by placing severe checks and restraints on the Rum traffic, in the manner proposed by *Senex*, they must impress on the Executive the necessity of looking after the Magistracy. It is utterly in vain to enact restrictive laws unless vigorous, upright, fearless magistrates can be found, to carry them into execution.

We have no faith in any thing short of Prohibition. You may regulate and arrange as you please, but while you have the "accursed thing" among you, under the sanction of the law, your efforts at amelioration will fail. For if you first license a trade, and then fence it round with such restrictions that the trade cannot be profitably carried on, will those restrictions be enforced? Will not magistrates decline to interfere, and the public look on with indifference? The only effective remedy for existing evils is the suppression of the traffic in intoxicating liquor, as a beverage.

They repealed the Prohibitory Law in Maine, and replaced it by a stringent License Law. What is the result? The License Law has proved a mere sham, and Maine is again deluged with drunkenness. The next move will be the re-enactment of Prohibition, and then Maine will be herself again.

If Temperance men are true to the cause, the next House of Assembly will be a *Prohibition-House*. That is the object we now aim at. Men may be Conservatives or Liberals, or any thing else they please, but if they want our votes they must be *Prohibition-men*. There must be no mistake about that. We give fair warning of our intentions. Let the politicians on all sides lay it to heart.

Possibly some think that the extreme measure (as they affect to regard Prohibition) may be avoided, by such enactments as *Senex* suggests. Well—make the trial. The field is before you. If you can accomplish our object without the adoption of our policy, do so. We shall rejoice in your success. But we have no hope of it. Your failure, however, will pave the way for Prohibition.

Our correspondent "*Micmac*" will accept our thanks for his suggestions, which

will be made use of as occasions occur. It has appeared expedient to us, on the whole, not to print his letter, as some points referred to in it are better discussed in the Division Room than in a public Journal. We beg to remind our correspondent that the Deputies are appointed by the G. W. P., and are amenable to him only.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—We learn from *Herard's Gazette* that "the Annual Session of the Grand Division was held in Charlottetown on Thursday, Oct. 30th. The election of officers and all the proceedings of the meeting were conducted with the unanimity and cordial courtesy that characterise the Brotherhood. Several representatives from the Subordinate Divisions in the rural districts were present, 'good men and true,' who gave unmistakable assurance of their unflinching devotion to the cause of God and humanity."

The officers for the Grand Division of Prince Edward Island for the year 1856-7 are—

G. W. P.—REV C. J. BURNETT.

G. W. A.—MR JOHN RIDER.

G. Scribe—MR P. DESBRISAY.

G. T.—MR G. R. BEER.

G. Chaplain—REV J. McMURRAY.

G. Conductor—MR JAMES EVANS.

G. Sentinel—MR JOHN SCOTT.

P. G. W. P.—MR J. W. MORRISON.

Mr J. Arbuckle is re-appointed General Agent. We shall be happy to report his proceedings, and we trust he will act as "General Agent" for the *Abstainer*. It will give us great pleasure to send a thousand copies to Prince Edward Island. Our correspondent, whose letter appears in another column, gives a gloomy account of the state of Temperance affairs. The next communication, we trust, will be more cheering.

WE have received the following *Query* :—

MR. EDITOR,—

Dear Sir,—Will you, or some of your correspondents, have the goodness to inform us, through the columns of the *Abstainer*, whether a Son of Temperance, or member of a Temperance Society, is justified by his pledge in voting for a candidate for warden, or for the office of councillor, having authority to license grog shops; knowing such candidate to