

—Brother Alfred Ardley, who has resided in Ottawa City for several years, left a few days ago for England to visit his parents. Previous to his going away his temperance friends entertained him in the Temperance Hall, O'Connor street. The ladies had provided tea, cream, strawberries and cake, and about fifty sat down to the table. Bro. McIntyre, of the city post office, occupied the chair, and Bro. John Kean the vice-chair. The chairman explained that the object of the gathering was to express to Bro. Ardley their appreciation of his conduct as a temperance man, and to bid him adieu. Brother Hannum, Bro. Kean, and others spoke in warm terms of Bro. Ardley, and his energy in everything he undertook. Bro. Ardley in reply said that he wished to pay a visit to England for a few weeks, and hoped that the cause would go on progressing. Old Bytown Division was improving fast in membership, and he hoped on his return to see many brought within the influence of good old Bytown Division. We join our Ottawa friends in wishing Bro. Ardley a pleasant trip, and hope to see him return to his post, safe and sound.

Correspondence.

SOMETHING WRONG.

To the Editor,

DEAR SIR,—There is something "rotten in the state of Denmark." Half a dozen years ago, for activity and earnestness of purpose our Order was the foremost temperance body on this continent—Ontario proudly boasting of being the banner Grand Division. To-day all over America the Sons of Temperance as an Order is in a declining condition, and it is very questionable if this Province is in the front place. If held it is because the Order is gradually sinking into oblivion. This is a terrible confession to have to make, and why should it be dragged from us? Has the Order forsaken any of the high ground on which it rests? On

the contrary it is more than ever built on the principles which are and always have been its true elements of strength. Is it want of ability in our ranks? No, at no time in our history have the veterans of our cause (the men so long in the thick of the fight), been better prepared to do battle still ready, aye ready, to stay the progress of our common foe. Whence then this listless, languid existence we now live? The root of the evil is just in our very midst. The great bulk of the membership expects one or two to do the hard work, with back-handed blows from foes, and side thrusts from friends, while we look on with cool indifference, a go-as-you-please air. If the Order tumbles to pieces it is no concern of ours. If it overcomes difficulty we can then step in and have a slice of credit. Is this honest or fair? Let each brother examine the matter straightforwardly, and if after much careful examination he feels the twinge of conscience, let him bestir himself and endeavour by his influence and zeal to raise his Order out of the slough of despond. Then the cry will be, "live, long live," and that life a real glowing vitality, far different to what has been slowly dragging us down to an untimely grave. Again, there is another reformation has to be attended to sooner or later, the sooner the better, even to a commencement at once. It is very evident there has been remissness in high places through indifference and culpable negligence. The time has come when the Order demands that its best interests be attended to by those placed in charge of its affairs. We have strong faith in the present head of the Order, and we look forward to a much more encouraging retrospect at Oshawa than we had at Orillia, but should we be disappointed, and the disappointment would be grievous, then he and the other members of the Executive will be held to strict account. No more whitewashing will suffice. Our Officers have a grave responsibility resting on them, and being held up to us, private

members, as examples worthy our emulation in prosecuting our work, it behoves them to lead us as men strong and valiant, not imbecile, lazy and weak. We know, there is work to be done and that we can do it. Let it be done by every member, the Order working as one, our officers, as is proper, leading boldly the van. Then, and only then, will we fully realize the full meaning of "working while it is called to-day, for the night cometh, when no man can work." May the days to come be bright with prosperity, and when our star as an Order sinks, may it indeed "sink as doth the morning star which goeth not down behind the darkened west but melts away into the brightness of heaven."—

Yours in L., P. & F.

WELL WISHER.

"A GRIEVANCE."

To the Editor,

SIR.—Mr. Caswell's contribution was one to the funds of New Dominion Division, and not to the Grand Division. Had it been mentioned in any report to the latter body, I should certainly have felt it, if not a grievance, at least in bad taste. It is not unusual for deputies who can afford to do so, to remit their fee, but to parade it before the Order is to cast a reflection upon those who cannot afford, or do not choose to perform the service for nothing. A deputy of my acquaintance organized two divisions, and though he is a workingman, he travelled upwards of fifty miles to one, paid his expenses and gave the Division a receipt, taking not a cent. The fee for the other he expended in taking a deputation with him to give the young division a good send off. But even the visited Division supposed that the visitors bore their share of the expenses. Some time since I was asked to organize a weak young division, and stated that in my opinion it is not just to other deputies for an official to adopt the rule of foregoing the fee, my offer was to wait a time for the fee, and on re-