

— We have just heard of a brother who grumbled about the cost of belonging to a Division. He paid dues, and his wife was a member, and she paid dues, and take it all around it was quite a tax. Yet we have good reason to believe that the brother, before he signed the pledge, had often spent half a month's wages in one drunken revel, and his spree altogether had cost him a house and lot, beside his ready cash. Yet he could not pay a few dollars in support of his principles cheerfully.

Correspondence.

"THE SON OF TEMPERANCE."

To the Editor,

SIR,—I am pleased the Grand Division has approved of the idea of having a monthly visitor in the shape of *The Son of Temperance*, and trust the members of the Subordinate Divisions will appreciate the object it has in view. I am sure nothing will give the members of the Division to which I belong greater satisfaction than to read it themselves, and after they have devoured its contents, hand it to some one outside our ranks for a similar purpose.—Yours, etc.,

WELL-WISHER.

REFORM.

To the Editor,

SIR,—At the last meeting of the Grand Division, held at Grafton, a good deal was said with regard to the manner in which the books of accounts of the Grand Division were kept; and least some people might suppose that something was wrong, I trust the Executive will see that before the next meeting a new style is inaugurated. So long as the present system is maintained of having a responsible and yet not responsible Treasurer, cause will exist for complaint. Better do away with the office of Treasurer altogether than give a person the honour and yet not allow him to share the responsibility.—In L. P. & F.,

OLD SON.

OUR DIVISION.

To the Editor,

DEAR SIR,—I am sorry to observe that a good many of the members of the Order, during the warm weather, are inclined to give the go-by to the Division meeting, and seek some other place to spend their evenings. This should not be. The Division meeting night should be kept sacred for the purpose of assembling together to discuss temperance matters, and otherwise building us up in the principles of the Order.—Your obt. servant,
OBLIGATION.

The Irish Sunday Closing Act.

THE very gratifying results of the Irish Sunday Closing Act, in diminishing disorder and crime on Sunday and in lessening the general aggregate of drunkenness and its attendant miseries in Ireland, have given rise to an earnest agitation for additional restriction and in favour of Saturday early closing. This agitation has already made its impress upon Parliament. The eloquent Irish member, the Hon. A. M. Sullivan, who introduced a bill to provide for Saturday early closing, led recently in the debate in the House of Commons in an able speech in its favour, supported by the Hon. Benjamin Whitworth and others. In the Parliamentary debate, however, the opponents of the measure did most of the talking, and it is noticeable that they chiefly sought delay, but did not venture to oppose the bill upon its merits. The great evil of Saturday-night drinking was quite too conspicuous to be seriously denied. Mr. Thomas O'Rourke, a "publican" member of the Tralee Town Council, in a late discussion in that body, affirmed that "there is not a more persecuted class than the publicans" (liquor sellers), and he added most valuable testimony when he declared:—"Since the Sunday-closing Act I have lost one hundred pounds." The five hundred dollars which the liquor-seller has thus "lost" his former Sunday patrons have of course

saved for other and better uses. So obviously useful is Sunday-closing in Ireland, a strong Sunday-closing movement has in consequence been inaugurated in Wales, with encouraging prospects. The Dean of Bangor, who was recently at a large meeting at Aberdeen, which has a population of some 40,000, says that, "no less than ninety-two out of every hundred of the population declared themselves in favour of Sunday-closing." Thus a practical step forward in the right direction in one community promotes also kindred progress in others.

The Heathen (?) Chinese.

THE Chinese have been the subject of much discussion in this country for a considerable period, and, upon the Pacific Coast, of much proscription, in some instances of murderous violence. It does not, however, follow that they may not be capable of teaching even the enlightened Americans some lessons of wisdom. It appears from the *Pekin Gazette*, the official gazette of the country, that the governor of Shang-Tung, in obedience to instructions issued at the instance of the Board or Revenue, has published a report on "the condition of the spirit trade in that province," and that he approves a plan suggested by the Board for "gradually closing the distilleries." An official notice says that, "by way of putting a stop to the excessive waste of food which spirit-distilling entails," the governor proposes to have all distilleries now open registered, to make their licenses non-transferable, and to issue no new ones. This official notice closes by saying that "so much grain kept out of the distilleries will be so much food stuff saved. The proposal, therefore, is that from the present year the existing establishments will be allowed to die out, while no new ones will be permitted to be opened." With the view to a wise public policy concerning liquor-distilling and the saving of grain as wholesome food, we should be quite disposed