

and as you all look so happy at this Band of Hope meeting, I feel a desire to become a member, and so I shall be happy to sign the pledge.

**THE CHAIRMAN.**—I am glad the discussion has finished so well; and now I am sure we shall all be pleased to hear a short speech in rhyme from Miss Sobriety; after which, Master Temperance will finish the meeting.

**MISS SOBRIETY.**—

How happy would this nation be,  
If from intemperance it were free!  
How quickly vice would disappear  
Without the aid of wine or beer!  
Oh, how I love the temperance cause,  
It is so true to nature's laws!  
To abstain from brandy, rum and gin,  
(The cause of so much pain and sin)  
Our tables would be better spread  
With richer food and cheaper bread.  
We see the drunkard lost in shame,  
And hear him curse God's holy name—  
And shall we not for him give up  
The smiling, dangerous, tempting cup?  
I've seen the wretched drunkard die  
In mortal, mental agony;  
And thousands now are on the road  
Which leads from virtue and from God;  
Drink leads so many youths astray;  
Drink fills their spirit with dismay;  
Drink fills their hearts with bad designs—  
Drink is the cause of blackest crimes;  
Drink sinks its hopeless victims low;  
Drink makes the mother's tears to flow;  
Drink pains the soul and stops the breath;  
Drink is the child of sin and death.  
Oh, let us from this time begin  
To check this mighty growing sin;  
And ever look to heaven above,  
To fill our hearts with truth and love;  
That this our hopeful temperance band  
Firm as the solid rock may stand,  
Until the nations, one and all,  
Are free from mighty alcohol.  
Haste, happy, bright and glorious day,  
Angel of temperance, speed thy way;  
Spread thy pinions, wing thy flight,  
And chase away the drunkard's night;  
And let the wretched captive see  
The blessings of sobriety.

**MASTER TEMPERANCE.**—I am delighted with this meeting; we have had experience, oppositions, facts, arguments, a signature, and some well said verses. I am glad to see such a meeting—and though we are but children we may do much good. Our parents love us; and if some of them are not teetotalers, we may, by telling them what we have seen and heard, be the means of inducing them to abstain. I am happy to say that my father and mother, and brothers and sisters, are stanch teetotalers; and I hope that we may all keep our pledge. We doubtless, have some relations who are more or less injured by strong

drink: so there is a great work for us to do, and young as we are let us strive to do it. We can speak to other children—we can tell them what good has been done to many of our neighbours and friends—and we can ask them to attend our meetings. Let us strive to increase in numbers—tell all the children in the neighbourhood, and if you can, speak kindly to the drunkard; and young as we are, we may be the means of inducing him to abstain. We should all love the Band of Hope, and ever be grateful to our kind teachers for the instruction they impart to us.

**THE CHAIRMAN.**—I have been much delighted with this meeting; and I hope we shall be more in earnest than ever to make known the principle of temperance. I hope we shall remember what we have heard. I hope our next meeting will, if possible, be better than this. I hope we may all be enabled to keep our pledge. I hope that our parents and teachers may not be disappointed in our future career, and that it may be our happiness to have the pleasure of meeting in that world of bliss where Christ our Saviour lives and reigns at the right hand of his Father in glory.

### Our Divisions.

#### Plainville Division.

To the Editor,

**DEAR SIR.**—We have often desired to express our views with regard to the SON OF TEMPERANCE, and will now, with your permission, attempt to do so.

During the discussion we heard in the Grand Division with regard to it, we felt afraid its opponents would succeed in stifling its young existence; but, thanks to the wisdom displayed by the majority of the representatives present at the meeting, we still hail with pleasure its appearance monthly in our midst, and only wish that all the other Divisions welcomed it with the same satisfaction as our members do.

It is our earnest desire that it should grow to be one of the lead-

ing temperance papers of the day. We would further say, that we admire it for its frankness of opinion, for the kind words of advice and encouragement it gives, and its constant endeavour to enlighten the members of the Order on all matters pertaining to its best interest; while at the same time it does not withhold reproof when it thinks it necessary or called for.

With regard to our Division I am happy to say it has started into newness of life, and it is doing a good work. Influences are now at work bringing in new members, and we hope they will continue to be blessed by the Great Patriarch above until the traffic in liquors be unknown in our midst.

Fearing I may possibly be taking up too much of your valuable space, I will conclude by saying that I am just about starting to visit the Divisions in my district, and hope to be able in my return to send you some cheering news with regard to the progress of the Order.—Yours, in L. P. & F.

GRAND CHAP.

### Miscellaneous.

#### Are we our Brother's Keeper.

BY A. J. W.

**IF** we saw a neighbour's house on fire we would feel it to be our duty to call Fire! Fire! at the top of our voice, and do all in our power to have the flames extinguished; but we can look coolly on while men are burning with a hidden fire, and hastening to inevitable destruction; we can fold our hands and be perfectly calm while hundreds are dying around us, not only the death of the body, but also the death of the soul. We can listen to tales of woe and see the effects of the devastating fire which has burned up all the earthly possessions of many poor victims, while they themselves are scorched and bruised; but we pass on indifferently, saying to ourselves "that is none of my business, 'I am not my brother's keeper.'" God has bound us up in such a way that