

The Grand Worthy Patriarch read his report, as follows :

*Officers and Brethren of the Grand Division of Nova Scotia:*

Another year of life and of precious opportunity for serving God and doing good to man has passed away. Let us enter on the work of a new session, thankful for the health and mental energy by which we have been enabled to do something to lighten the world's miseries, and for such evidences of the progress and usefulness of our Order as have, during the past year, presented themselves to the eyes of all observing men.

Not a few of the true friends of our body can now look back on a service of one-fourth of a century in the temperance cause. Some have completed their thirtieth campaign. They can mark many phases of the warfare. They can tell of triumphs and of disappointments, of victories which made their hearts glad, and of hopes deferred which made their hearts sick. Many of us then young and ardent, thought that long ere this, society would have been revolutionized, and the work in fact achieved. We have been mistaken, but we have also been instructed and disciplined.

We have been *instructed*. We know now much better the magnitude and the difficulty of our work. We know that Intemperance is a gigantic and many sided evil, resting on the strong foundations of fashion and interest, of appetite and depravity. It has grown to be a system of sin firmly entrenched, and still capable of stern and protracted resistance. In fact, though oft assailed and oft defeated, it yet holds the field with defiant attitude, often still triumphant over law and order, humanity and religion.

We have been *trained* as well as taught. We commenced the work experimentally, and have advanced with some reverses and temporary defeats, and yet with great steadiness. Point after point, apparently of great vitality has been carried. Gradually we have come to know where the heart of the mischief, the stronghold of the enemy is. As that centre has been retreating, we have been advancing. We have been disciplined by our work, and we are now resolved never to lay down our arms until we have reached the last citadel of the foe. As for ourselves we scarcely expect to see the end, but if we do, expect to die with our armour on.

We have met for drill and also to reconnoitre; in a word to prepare for another campaign. If any are faint-hearted or afraid