

men who govern the affairs of State regard the great principles of our glorious institution. But while we deplore the perfect indifference with which most men occupying high and influential positions in the nation look upon the work in which we are engaged, it must be with very great pleasure and satisfaction that we see one here, and another there, among the great and influential, those occupying high and eminent positions as statesmen, breaking away from the degrading and demoralizing customs and fashions of society, and standing forth as moral heroes, becoming identified with the Temperance reform, and exerting a powerful influence in favor of our principles, and whose example is worthy of imitation by every statesman of England, however high the position which he may have the honor to occupy.

I may be excused for referring to one very pleasing feature in connection with the Temperance movement in this Province. I refer to the interest which the clergy are manifesting in the work. I believe that many more clergymen have been initiated into our Order during the past year than in any previous year in the history of this Grand Division: and with such aid and influence in favor of our blessed work what may we not expect to accomplish?

And there is another class of persons whose influence either for or against the principles of Total Abstinence is, I think, very generally admitted to be as extensive as almost any other class in society, who are daily becoming interested in the reformatory work. I now refer to the medical profession. They, too, are beginning to feel it to be their duty to add example to precept, and many of them have enrolled their names among the champions of Temperance in this Province during the past year.

Is it any wonder, then, that in the face of all opposition from the foes of Total Abstinence, and the apparent indifference of many of its professed friends, I am enabled at this time to report that the Order in this Province is steadily and inevitably progressing?

It must, indeed, be gratifying to this Grand Division to learn that the membership of the Order in this Province is larger in 1865 than in any previous year, and that at no time during the last ten years has the Order been in such a prosperous and healthy condition as at the present; nor has there, in any one year during that period, been a larger number of new Divisions instituted and old ones resuscitated. As you will see, by referring to the Journals of the last ten years, this Grand Division has experienced many seasons of adversity as well as prosperity. The largest increase in the number of Divisions, previous to this year, was in 1858, when there were 12 Divisions instituted and 9 resuscitated; 1864 shows the next highest number—having 15 Divisions instituted and 4 resuscitated; and this year, as you no