

moral reform, and as a man possessed of the highest order of organizing and executive business ability.

We take the present opportunity, when the annual record of the National Temperance Society is before the public, and when our city is about to be favored with a visit from Bro. Stearns—who comes here as a representative to the Right Worthy Grand Lodge of the I. O. G. T.—to place before our readers a few incidents of his life work for God and humanity, believing that the story will serve as encouragement to other toilers in the same great field.

The temperance cause owes much to some noble men who owe everything to the temperance cause. Some of our best and most zealous soldiers have themselves felt the galling charms of the tyrant against whom they now wage war, but the best work, the heaviest work, the most permanent and far-reaching work, is the life-time work of those who have never wasted God-given days and energies in unnerving dissipation, who have no results of bad influence to undo, and no misspent years of sin to redeem. The brother of whom we write was a tectotal boy, and wore the badge of the blue ribbon army when he first stepped out from home to take his share in the world's realities and strife. He has been in God's hand a power for good, such as he never could have been, had he made a later or less decided beginning.

After passing through an active apprenticeship in the "Cadets," our friend became one of the "Sons of Temperance" as soon as he was old enough to join that society, and at once he rose into well-merited prominence. His talents, energies and purse were all at the disposal of the order, and he travelled, talked, subscribed and organized unceasingly. In 1859, when only thirty years of age, he was unanimously elected G. W. P., for Eastern New York, and in 1886 he became Most Worthy Patriarch of the National Division of North America.

There are very few temperance undertakings that have not had the benefit of Mr. Stearns' sympathy and practical co-operation. For several years he was president of the New York State Temperance Society. He has repeatedly held the highest elective office in the Order of Templars of Honor and Temperance; an order comparatively unknown in Canada but very extensive and influential on the Southern side of the dividing line between us and our co-workers of the United States.

We welcome our brother on the present occasion as a member of the I. O. G. T. He comes to the R. W. G. L.—in which he has been an earnest worker for many years—as a representative of the Grand Lodge of New York, and no Grand Lodge could have a better representative. It is rarely that we find a man broad enough and tall enough to take in, and stand high in every branch and every department of temperance effort, Brother Stearns is everywhere, masters the details of every enterprise, and seems to still have reserve power for anything that should turn up needing his aid and

deserving his sympathy. Probably we shall enrol him, before he leaves us, as a member of the Dominion Alliance, the only extensive temperance organization to which he does not already belong.

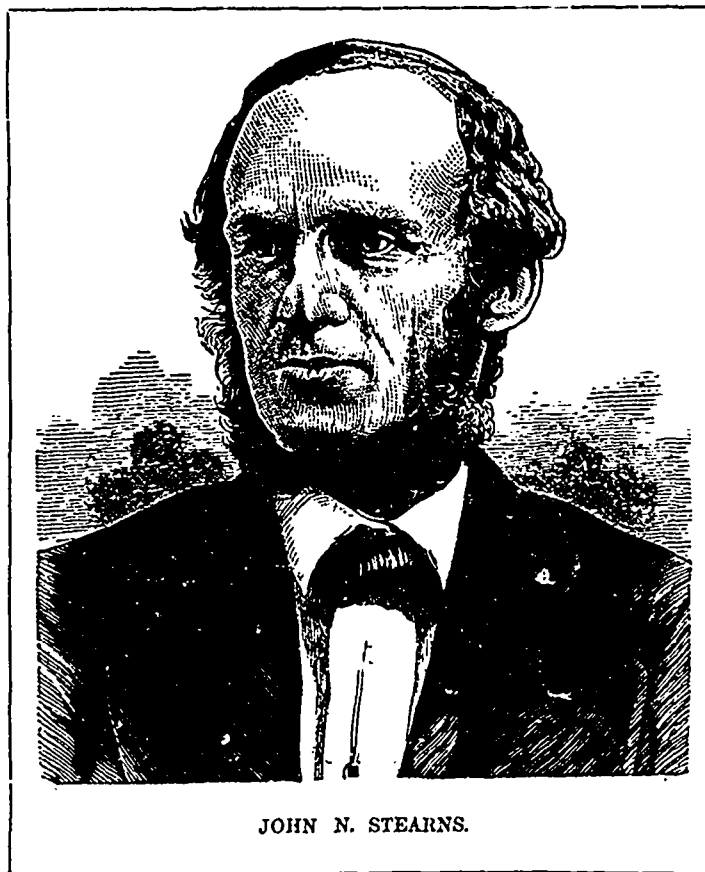
We can only briefly notice the National Temperance Society and Publishing House, the great and enduring monument to Bro. Stearns' genius, patriotism and loyal devotion to the sacred cause of progress and reform. Of this great undertaking he is the parent, the nurse, the wise counsellor, and the unfailing friend. Of what he has accomplished in this direction, we append a short account from the pen of George W. Bungay; and would only add a fervent prayer that our noble-hearted brother may long be spared to increase the great debt of gratitude that his country owes him, and to see "the pleasure of the Lord prospering in his hands."

"The National Temperance Society and Publication House has been in operation nearly sixteen years, and it has now become a power in the land, sending forth millions of pages of literature over the continent, touching the public heart and quickening the public conscience. It has stereotyped and published millions of pages of tracts, a vast number of pamphlets and books, all proofs of which have passed under his inspection. The Society was founded and is directed by men of all evangelical denominations and of every phase of the temperance movement, and it is due to the discretion, conscientious judgment, and faithful labor of the subject of this sketch that no charge of disloyalty to any particular sect in religion or any temperance society has been preferred to his discredit.

In his hands the *National Temperance Advocate* and the *Youth's Temperance Banner*, have been powerful levers in moving and reforming society. The former is an encyclopædia of temperance thought and sentiment, numbering among its contributors many of the most erudite and eloquent friends of the cause; and the latter, having attained an immense circulation in Sunday Schools and juvenile temperance societies, is moulding the minds of a vast number of

children who will be prepared to take high ground on this great issue in the future. The labor involved in the task of editing and publishing these papers, books, tracts, etc., is difficult of computation. Paper must be bought, manuscripts must be examined, proofs must be critically read, exchange publications must be examined, correspondents must be answered, the bills of printers, engravers, stereotypers, paper-makers, etc., must be paid; and all this is only a part of the work which must be done, for there are tracts, reports, and books to be published and advertised, visitors from every part of the compass with missions and messages demanding prompt attention, calls for addresses from various places, lecturers looking for help in making their appointments, etc. Were it not true that Mr. Stearns is a man of method, and a live, wide-awake business man, killing many birds with a few arrows, he would sink under the heavy burden he has to bear, and his health would collapse under the severe pressure.

The Publishing House, all things considered, is a marvel of success. The good it accomplishes, as a source of education, and of reform to the masses, surpasses comprehension. It is constantly scattering the seed-corn of thought, that grows into habits of abstinence and bears the fruit of honesty, and honor, and Christian charity. The product of the best brains and hearts in England, and



JOHN N. STEARNS.