

the old Ritual, or the amendment of the new one, the following resolution was passed ;—"That the Report of the Committee on Ceremonies and Regalia, together with the various propositions from the several Grand Divisions now before the National Division, and received during the year, to re-instate the old Ritual, or to amend the new one, be referred to a Special Committee from this body, who shall in the interregnum between the present and the next Session of the National Division, give the same due consideration, and report the result of their deliberations to the National Division at its next Session to be held at Providence, Rhode Island, and if practicable, recommend such a course as would permanently settle the Ritual question before the Order at large."

On the question of forming a National Division of British North America, the Committee on the state of the Order presented a Report in which they expressed their "deep regret at the prospect of such an event," adverted to the fact that the Province of New Brunswick had refused to unite in the application, and therefore, while they recommended the granting of the request, suggested the propriety of holding the matter "under advisement" till the next Annual Session. The Report of the Committee was adopted. Nothing more can now be done till next year. Meanwhile it may be proper to correspond with the Grand Division of New Brunswick, in order to obtain a statement of the reasons which influenced that body in declining to unite in the application. Harmonious action should be secured, if possible.

The present state of the Order occasioned much discussion at the recent Annual Session of the National Division. There has been a gradual diminution of numbers for some time past. It is not supposed that this diminution is owing to any abatement of zeal in the cause of Temperance, but to other circumstances, particularly to the establishment of new Orders, which, for various reasons, have proved more attractive. The whole subject demands anxious consideration. I beg to call special attention to the facts and suggestions contained in the Report of the Most Worthy Scribe and the Address of the Most Worthy Patriarch, which will be found in the Journal of the National Division.

The annual returns of this Grand Division did not reach the Most Worthy Scribe in time for his Report to the National Division. This was owing to the dilatoriness of some of our