

On motion, it was voted, That the thanks of this National Division be tendered Mr. Howard for his liberal offer.

Votes of thanks were also tendered to Acting M. W. P. Mackean, for the able and impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of the body during the past three days; to Edward Harris, Esq., for his hospitality to the members while at Woonsocket; and to P. B. Stiness, Esq., and the Grand Division and members of the order in Rhode Island, for their hospitality and the efforts which had been made to render the session agreeable.

Appropriations were made to the Assistant M. W. S., and to the janitor, for services rendered.

The action at the morning session, relative to *per capita* tax on members over six months in arrears, was re-considered, and one year was substituted for six months.

The National Division then closed its fourteenth annual session.

PROVIDENCE, June 12. Immediately after the close of the session, the members proceeded to the house of Mr. B. Stiness, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements for the reception and entertainment of the National Division, when Hon. Robert M. Foust of Philadelphia, in behalf of his brethren from Grand Divisions out of Rhode Island, made a presentation to Mr. Stiness of a beautiful silver pitcher. Very appropriate speeches were made by Mr. Foust, General Cary and Mr. Stiness.

Essays, &c.

A SCRAP FROM TEMPERANCE HISTORY.

The struggle of the old pioneers in temperance to get in a life, are little known to the existing generation. They were not unlike those of Luther and the reformers, to throw off the power of popery. The whole world were combined against them. Occasionally we meet with a statement or two, which is worth being put on record for the benefit of those who come after us. The following from the diary of the late Wm. Jackson of Newton, is a fair specimen of the mode in which temperance societies were early forced up into existence. In 1826 the Board of Select men of which Mr. Jackson was chairman, had refused to give a necessary certificate to procure a license. This raised a storm of wrath against them from all the rum-sellers and drinkers. How should it be met? Mr. Jackson says:

In October, 1826, I called a meeting at my house of all the Temperance men I knew in the town of Newton, Mass.

There were but three present besides myself. We agreed to form a Temperance Society, upon the basis of *total abstinence* from distilled spirits.

I was appointed to prepare a circular, to have four hundred copies printed on letter paper, and a copy sent to every family in Newton.

The circular stated our object, and the necessity of united effort for arresting the progress of intemperance among us, with the Constitution under which we proposed to act, and inviting every one to join us. The 1st January, 1827, was the time appointed to form a society and choose officers.

At this meeting, twenty seven persons united with us; about half this number were minors, who were induced to join, partly at least by being furnished gratuitously with Temperance papers, and of having free access to a large library.

The opposition to our movement was very strong, unreasonable, and overbearing; we had undertaken to rebuke nearly the whole community of both sexes and all ages, for a habit which was ancient and universal among them. We were met with sneers, ridicule and condemnation everywhere, and from almost everybody; and at the next election, the Selectmen were all turned out of office.

We had little else for our defence, but a conviction that we were right; that the welfare of ourselves, our families, and all around us, called for a manly defence, and an earnest adherence to our principles.

I soon became sensible that there was no other way but to stand firm against the storm, face it, and take an aggressive position. Accordingly I prepared an address, obtained Rev. Mr. Greenough's Meeting House (he did not fully approve our measures, nor believe in their success). We had our Total Abstinence Society together, invited the whole town to meet us, and hear us speak for ourselves. I delivered a Temperance address, the first I ever attempted in public, to a full house. At the close of the meeting, I invited all to join us, and succeeded in more than doubling our numbers. The whole town learned that we were not to be sneered out of our principles, nor brow-beaten into silence; but that the existence of a Total Abstinence Society in Newton was a fixed fact. We held public meetings once a month for the discussion of our principles and measures. We spread Temperance papers and tracts freely; we procured a library of several hundred volumes, which was made free to all the members of the society, and in less than one year and a half, we had a majority of Newton men and women, and a majority of the voters either in our society, or sympathizing with us. Topers were ashamed, and rum-sellers dissatisfied with their business. The Selectmen who had been turned out of office by the rum-sellers and drinkers, were re-elected, and myself sent Representative to the Legislature.

A SKETCH.

BY M. N.

It was a dark, threatening Saturday night in the early part of December, 1856, when Abel Jones and Henry Summers left the hall of —, Division S. of T., No. —, to return to their respective homes, which were on the same road,—that of the first about a mile distant, and the other perhaps as far again. They were on foot, but many a night had they travelled thus, for they were staunch friends of the Order, and in its darkest hours had stood up heroically in its aid. To attend the regular meetings they had waded through mire and breasted storms, before which less devoted sons would have quailed. On several occasions they, with two others, were the only ones present, but never despaired; and in due time the force of their example was seen by the largely increased meetings. On the evening in question, an unusually large number were in attendance, and the subjects discussed were particularly interesting. As the two friends proceeded on their way, the topics of the night were again gone over.

"Summers," remarked his companion, "I

do think Smith's arguments had considerable merit, and that the *Conductor* is really too high. It strikes me he says truly, that it is an extortion to make us pay a dollar a year for a paper of that size which comes out but monthly, when we can get weekly papers like the *Sun*, and a dozen others, with two or three times the reading matter, for the same money."

"Even in that light," replied Summers, "I think Walters had the best of it, showing as he did, that it was not so much the quantity as the *kind* of matter which constituted its value. All admitted, too, the importance of having a paper of the kind for reference, and as a means of communication with the Grand Division, and therefore as a mere matter of convenience it should be sustained. But he urged you know, the higher and nobler motive of philanthropy, and enquired who would not give a dollar to aid in obtaining the powerful assistance of the press to disseminate and enforce those principles we profess to have so much at heart, even if we ourselves did not receive an equivalent in paper."

"I recollect," said Jones, "he said all that very well; but then in reply Smith told him they had other equally imperative demands, and could not afford to give so much in charity. And Johnson, and Hill, and Hart and Dent, and two or three more concurred with him, and said they were positively not able to take the paper. And I confess, though I said nothing, I felt very much of the same opinion."

"As for Smith," replied Summers, "if he would refrain for one month from making any alteration in his house, he could attend to that and a dozen similar objects; but he is so everlastingly tearing down old porches and erecting others, boarding up windows and opening new ones, that it is not wonderful he has no money."

"Well that cannot be said of Johnson."

"Not precisely, but he showed me three or four days ago a cane to which he had recently a gold head made, costing six dollars and a half. The extra half would have purchased a cane answering every purpose, while one sixth of the remainder would have procured the *Conductor*."

"Well, what of Hill?—he is poor enough in all conscience."

"That is true, but he is a good smith, and every day he works, can clear two dollars; yet how much time, think you, he loses in the course of the year, squirrel hunting?"

"More than enough to justify him in refusing to subscribe, I am afraid," replied Jones, "and for that matter so does Hart, who, besides, will give a dollar any time for a piece of tom-foolery. But there's Dent I know you can't say any thing of him, for if ever there was a saving man he's the one."

"So he is, and having a family dependent on his personal exertions, he acts properly; but he does not calculate so closely but that he might save several dollars."

"In what way?" asked Jones.

"By refusing to supply tobacco to his depraved taste and giving instead mental food to his children. In doing this he would benefit himself doubly—aye, trebly, making money, i.e., by the operation."

The portending storm now began to give notice of its near approach by scattering drops of rain. The two friends hurried on, but ere they reached the gate leading to Jones' house, the pent up elements burst forth in all their fury, and at the earnest solicitation of the