

important position you occupy in the National Councils of this, the great philanthropic movement of the 19th century.

I can also congratulate you upon the present state and future prospects of the order within the jurisdiction of this Grand Division. Though our numbers have not materially increased since the Semi-Annual Session, yet the peace and tranquillity pervading the brotherhood, the activity and energy of very many Subordinate Divisions, and the healthy tone of public opinion upon the question of Prohibition, are cheering indications that seed has been sown in good ground, and that, ere long, we may look for a bountiful harvest.

During the past Summer and Autumn numerous public Temperance demonstrations have taken place, attended in nearly every instance with gratifying success. A considerable number of Deputies refer, in their communications, to those Soirees with much satisfaction. In many places loud calls are made for Lecturers during the approaching Winter. Not a few Divisions desire again to petition the Legislature in favor of Prohibition, and many Deputies bear testimony to the great good attending the admission to the Division of Lady Visitors.

Evidences are not wanting that, throughout the entire community, your organization is looked upon as an absolute necessity for the wellbeing of our beloved country, and a cherished refuge to thousands from the influence of the "all-pervading destroyer". Your spirit has been infused into nearly every neighborhood within your jurisdiction; and to be known as a consistent Son of Temperance, is to insure the respect of those with whom you have intercourse. Your spirit, with your petitions, has entered the Halls of Legislation, and the country's delegates, in Parliament assembled, have admitted the correctness of the principles of Prohibition.

The Act for the suppression of the traffic in liquors upon and near public works, the disfranchisement of inn and saloon keepers by the 73rd section of the Municipal Law, the two days prohibition of the Elective Franchise Act, and the Sunday anti-Liquor Law, are all trophies laid at your feet, and may fairly be received as precursors of your ultimate and glorious triumph.

The lawgiver who yields to the necessity of introducing Prohibition into certain places and on certain occasions, as in the Acts just referred to, has only to be consistent with the dictates of reason to grant the Prohibition for which you contend. He already admits that when men congregate at public works and upon election days, they are likely to become excited and act improperly under the influence of spirits. You say, with equal reason, that men are likely to become excited and act badly, under the influence of spirits, congregated at any place where liquors are freely used. He now admits the propriety of prohibition on *Saturday nights* and *Sunday mornings*. With equal reason you would extend the principle to *every night* and *every morning*. Had the Act for the abolition of slavery in the British West Indies only applied to certain places within those islands and on certain occasions, it would have been in harmony with, and quite as inconsistent as, our present Prohibitory Liquor Laws. But the spirit of philanthropy, and a due regard to consistency, impelled the British public, headed by the immortalized Wilberforce, to abolish the entire traffic in human beings at once and forever. Confiding in the impregnability of our position as prohibitionists, we may reasonably hope that the stamp of public disapprobation, embodied in the form of law, will, ere long, be placed upon the entire liquor traffic of Canada, and the mark of disfranchisement be indelibly fixed, not