

zeal which has marked the recent efforts of our brethren in Halifax and elsewhere, may be exhibited by the Order generally throughout the Province. The importance of holding public meetings occasionally, should not be overlooked. The judicious advocacy of our principles upon such occasions, will gain for those principles a wider spread, and a deeper hold upon the favorable judgment of the best portions of the public; while the efforts of those who may in this way consent to employ their talents, will react favourably upon ourselves in many respects, and especially in keeping alive in our hearts the true genius and spirit of our noble institution.

And in addition to the frequent holding of public meetings, we would seriously enquire, cannot the press be employed more efficiently for the extension of our principles; and can we not introduce from the United States some of the Temperance periodicals and other publications, which shall tend to keep alive and increase the hearty interest of our brethren and of the public in our favor.

The question respecting the propriety of applying to the Legislature for a bill of incorporation, will probably be brought before you. On this matter I am not prepared to offer any decided opinion. Some brethren deem it unwise to ask for any legislative enactment; others think such a bill absolutely needful for the safety of the Division funds. I can only hope that should this question be brought under discussion, it will receive your cautious and deliberate judgment, and that you will be guided to a right decision.

I have observed with satisfaction that some Divisions have introduced into their Bye-laws, certain guards for the maintenance of their funds. The alterations to which I refer relate to the *lessening and limitation* of weekly benefits, and also a law to induce punctuality in the payment of dues,—as for instance preventing a brother who negligently suffers himself to become some months in arrears from receiving benefits until a certain time subsequent to the payment of such arrears. Such a regulation will be of utility in many respects; for although the benefit system of our Order is not to be regarded as its principal object, but rather as a means towards the attainment, of a higher, yet it must be felt, on various accounts, to be a matter of importance that our Division funds should be preserved in a safe and healthy state.

In conclusion, brethren, let me advise that we foster in all our Divisions a steady and becoming zeal in our great cause, and that we encourage all our brothers who courageously take the forefront in endeavouring to rout the common foe. Let us keep our ranks unbroken,—strictly observe our excellent discipline, and as a united army press forward, shoulder to shoulder, confident that though the struggle may be hard, yet that victory is ours. Onward is our watchword, and glorious success shall recompence our toil. After a year of such rapid advancement as was the past, we should not have wondered had there taken place a few desertions from our ranks, but happily we have not to mourn over the unfaithfulness of many, and if some of our Divisions have had a little sifting, they will thereby, we hope, be prepared to act in the future with greater efficiency.