

sion, had weakened the temperance army, and unfitted it for anything like simultaneous or concerted action, in which alone we could hope for success. Mature reflection—the sober second thought—has convinced us that the Sons of Temperance is an indispensable organization, an essential element of progress in the temperance reform, and one which it is the duty of every temperance man to maintain. This returning sanity is bringing back to the Division those who had been deluded by the false hope of exerting more influence for good in some other association. This re-concentration of effort is producing, in many localities, the happiest results, not only on the Order directly, but reflexly on society in general, producing a healthy tone of public sentiment, and moulding the fates and fortunes of thousands. Those who have studied the genius of our Order cannot fail to admire its peculiar adaptation to the wants of this versatile and progressive age. While the great central principles of the Order, the internal skeleton, remains as fixed and immovable as the everlasting hills, the internal investments, the mere drapery, can be changed with every changing whim of fashion, the wants of each succeeding year, or the demands of a better cultivated taste. It is, therefore, a great mistake to suppose that every year, and each successive phase of the temperance question, demands a new organization to meet these new exigencies. The Sons of Temperance is an institution that most admirably meets these ever changing indications. It combines most completely “diversity in unity,” and while moving to the fulfilment of its mission, its “manifest destiny,” the achievement of a sober world, it yet accommodates itself to all the reasonable demands of its social surroundings, and, in the large discretion left in the hands of Subordinate Divisions, adapts itself as far as possible to the various grades of society, as well as to the demands of widely separated localities. It thus justifies its claim to be the great temperance instrumentality of the age, embodying, as far as human imperfection will permit, the elements of prevention and cure for the evils of intemperance, and as such has peculiar claims on all the friends of sobriety everywhere.

3d. Another, and not the least among the causes which are adding lustre to the star of our Order, is the interest which our sister visitors are taking in the prosperity of our Divisions. He who supposes that any great moral reform or social revolution can be successfully carried forward without the aid of woman’s influence, has wholly misread human society in the meridian of the nineteenth century. This influence we have happily se-