

mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people." But when we seriously consider the question, what would have been the condition which our country most certainly (*not probably*) would have been in *now* in regard to drunkenness, if God in His merciful providence had not provided a deliverer for us? Can we find language sufficiently strong to express either our horror at the impending dangers which beset us, or our thankfulness and gratitude for our deliverance and escape?

Whilst we are thus cheered by the fact that our labors have not been in vain, shall we, forgetful of the claims of our country, and the obligations involved in the prosecution of the truly holy war which we have enlisted in for life, stand still and stop here? or shall we elevate our banner to a greater height, and "push things" more vigorously than ever, with the full assurance of obtaining not only *certain* but *greater* victories?

The Temperance Convention which was held in Halifax on the second and two following days of March last, was equal in every respect to the expectations of this Grand Division, when at its last annual meeting it passed the resolution which happily led to the assembling of so many ardent and zealous friends of our noble Cause.

About three hundred delegates met as the Representatives of the several Temperance Orders and organizations in the Province. A Provincial Temperance Alliance was formed and duly organized; a constitution agreed upon and a platform adopted, which aims at a combined and concentrated and vigorous effort to effect that very desirable object, the enactment of a *Prohibition Law*. That the Alliance is composed of earnest and determined workers in the cause which they have espoused, and that they will ultimately be successful in obtaining the object in view, there is little ground to fear or room for doubt. Already a number of County Alliances have been formed, and in other counties steps are being taken to form similar institutions, so that ere long the combined effort and influence of the Temperance bodies in the Province may be directed to the accomplishment of any plan for the suppression of the gigantic evil.

The duty of this Grand Division is to maintain a part worthy of itself in the movement.

In the meantime let us not forget that while the complete extermination of the liquor traffic by the enactment of a Prohibitory Law is our ultimate end and aim; the grand and principal means to be employed in gaining that object is moral suasion. We must agitate, educate, entreat, convince, and enlighten. We have to win over the deliberate judgement of our intelligent fellow-citizens to the propriety of our views, and secure their approval of them.

In many parts of our Province the people are ready for a Prohibition Law, and the necessity of rigidly enforcing the present License Law should be earnestly urged on Subordinate Divisions. Much good should be accomplished through their instrumentality in their respective localities in this respect, both in the way of forwarding petitions to the Courts of Sessions against the granting of licenses, and by bringing to justice offenders against the License Laws.

I am obliged to refer you to the report of the Grand Scribe for information in reference to the progress of the Cause during the past quarter. The information I have on this point, although scanty, is so far encouraging that I feel assured it will be found that our Divisions have generally turned to good account the winter season just past, and that although apathy has in some instances produced its chilling effects, yet in general a vigorous and successful work has been carried on.

P. G. W. P. Marshall, after making honorable mention of a number of Divisions in Pictou County, remarks: "I think I may say that the greater portion of the Temperance men of the county have enlisted *for the whole time of the war*." Of the County of Kings, G. W. A., W. C. Bill says, "From the information I have been able to gather, I am led to the conclusion that there is nothing particularly cheering in the present circumstances of our Order in this county, nor is there much to discourage. Perhaps our progress has been as great as in our