

FIFTY YEARS.

A RETROSPECT.

To form a correct estimate of the work done by Fraternal Temperance Societies would be a difficult matter. Those who have been actively promoting them for many years might be disposed to give too much credit to the Order for its achievements. There is no doubt however, that it may be safely claimed that this Order has been in this Province, during the fifty years that it has been in operation a very potent factor in promoting intelligence, sobriety and morality.

Calculating from the basis of an average of 250 Divisions at work, it will be found that no less than 13,000 weekly meetings are held in the course of a year. Granting that very little is done at each, taken in the aggregate it must be admitted that a great deal of sentiment is created thereby. These meetings are for members of the Order only. The number of open meetings and entertainments where speeches are made advocating our principles to the public will number at least 1000 each year; while the number of lectures delivered will number more than 200 each year. Our average number of enrollments is, in round numbers, 4000 members a year, who assume the obligations of the Order and are pledged to total abstinence.

In addition to the lectures that are given, and the good Temperance speeches delivered upon various occasions, literature to the extent of 25,000 pieces are circulated by the Order. It is estimated that the money contributed by members of the Order for carrying on the work of their own subordinate Division, the District and Grand Divisions amounts to \$25,000 a year in this province. Then there is our work among the young; this work has languished it is true much of the time, but of recent years however, gratifying activity has been shown. This is only a beginning and the future is looked to with hope. Last year we enrolled nearly a thousand children, and this year we hope that this will be exceeded. This is a brief summary of a year's work of the Sons of Temperance.

This work has been going on for half a century, and when these figures are multiplied by fifty the magnificent totals give at least a fair idea of the extent of the effort that has been put forth by the noble old Order. Patiently and persistently the work has been carried on; young men have been enrolled, assumed our obligations and gone forth into life with characters lustrous with our virtues. Among them have been those who were destined to take foremost places in public life. There is no avocation or profession, civil or religious into which our members have not entered. No one who has thus risen has ever regretted his connection with the Order, and no matter to what height he has risen would not be proud to refer to his membership in this Order. Its social, educational, and moral benefits have been a

boom to every community in which the Division has been planted. By moral and Christian effort it was sought to reclaim the inebriate and arrest the moderate drinker in his downward career and save the young from the pitfalls of intemperance. We have achieved much in reclaiming those already addicted to drink, but our most extensive good has been in prevention. Our deeds of valor have not been wrought on bloody battle fields, but by the magic, silent influence of love. We have rescued the fallen, made homes happy that once were desolate, elevated the standard of truth and virtue and have promoted as citizens intelligence, patriotism and true heroism. Our Order must be placed among the great moral institutions based upon Christianity that have done so much for the uplifting of humanity in this incomparable age.

GOOD OF THE ORDER.

LEAVING DIVISION.—There is an old saying "that those whom the gods would destroy they first make mad." How often we hear the expression, when something goes against the pleasure or whim of a member, "I'll leave the Division." Analysed, what does it mean? It is a threat that if the wishes of the speaker (or rather "kicker") are not gratified he will work the institution harm. He thinks that is a power he possesses and he will exercise it if he can't have his own way. It is often an edifying spectacle to watch the victim after he has carried out his terrorizing threat. He thought he would cause tremendous havoc, and discovers afterwards just about as big a hole as he does when he pulls his finger out of a pail of water, and the Division wags on. The misguided brother only adds to his own chagrin. There may be cases where a prudent and conscientious member feels called upon and justified in withdrawing from a Division, but if all the means provided in the constitution carried out in an impartial and fraternal spirit have failed to adjust the trouble to the mutual satisfaction of the parties there is evidently something wrong somewhere, and the case is a very exceptional one. It should always be remembered that the Order exists to do good, that differences will arise in all spheres of life, that "it is our equal duty to yield a cheerful compliance to the constituted majority," and that no worthy institution should suffer because we want our individuality pampered. If a member threatens to leave because he cannot have his own way against a majority he is a tyrant. If a member leaves because some slight was offered by some private member he is a donkey. A threat to "leave Division" may indicate three things, a warped judgment, a tyrannical disposition, unstable character.

From a private letter received on the day of going to press we take the following: " * * * Speaking of the improvement gained working in a good cause, Bro. — and myself have enjoyed the blessings of a 'God bless you Bro-

thers!' from mothers whose sons have made effort to break the chains of bondage. We have advanced spiritually and intellectually. Thursday last two bums, whose characters had struck bottom and who would not be accepted in any organization for a time, at least until they had proven their intention to do better, walked into my store and pledged themselves to abstain from drink. This alone repays us for our work. It is my wish not to lose any opportunity whereby I may do good to my fellow-man."

We have pleasure in publishing the following communication, which is in every sense a typical one, and which we anticipate will be read by our members with interest:

RUSSELLTON, May 4th, 1898.
EDENVALE.

What is now the beautiful settlement of Edenvale, was, twenty years ago, a dense wilderness, infested by wolves and other wild animals. Through the woods the lumbermen had made a road from Barrie to the Nottawasaga river. Along this road and the shores of the river a number of stalwart pioneers had settled with their families, and were hewing out of the wilderness the beautiful farms which now are among the best in Canada. In the winter of 1879 the first sermon was preached in Edenvale by the Rev. Wm. Matenly, the meeting being held in the home of Henry Robinson. In 1882 the present Methodist church was erected. During the winter of 1885 Edenvale Division, No. 122, Sons of Temperance was organized by Bro. Holland, G. W. A. The meetings were held in the Methodist Church for a number of years, when the Division, having increased in membership, commenced to build the hall they now occupy, after which there was a struggle to keep the Division up to working strength, but through the persistency of Bro. Benson, D. G. W. P., and seven other staunch members, assisted by the members of the Methodist Church, the hall was relieved of debt, after which the Division increased in membership, nearly all the young people of the surrounding country enrolling themselves among the champions of temperance. Since then the Division has passed successfully through the usual tribules that befall all societies. At the present time the Division is rapidly increasing in membership and promises to become the largest Division in Centre Simcoe. The Edenvale Sunday School is one of the largest and best conducted schools in Simcoe County, all the officers being Sons of Temperance, the majority of the scholars also are members of the Order. There are no hotels within seven miles of Edenvale, and no young man of ed, would be seen frequenting these places. The strong prohibition sentiment that prevails through this district is almost exclusively due to the efforts of the members of the Order.

BROCK.