

You will be pleased to learn that brother Harrington intends to continue these monthly meetings, so long as he can get parties to lecture, or time to devote to the engagement.

Temperance is certainly progressing in Cape Breton. Our Divisions are increasing. The public are becoming inoculated with our views at our meetings, and a strong feeling in favor of temperance and prohibition, is gradually (even where imperceptible) growing up, and we trust the seed now being sown, will before long yield a plentiful harvest. A great number of tracts have also been distributed by brother Harrington, which can not fail to work on the public mind, and produce good fruit. "Cape Breton" and "Bethlehem" Divisions, and "Mayflower" and "June Rose" Divisions are in thriving condition, and no doubt doing good service in the cause. "Archangel" Division is subject to peculiar difficulties, and can not be expected ever to attain a high rank in the Order. I hardly know what is the present state of "Star in the East" Division. Report says it is not thriving, but in a disordered state.

We can only hope that our enemies may be disappointed, that Star in the East Div. may again take the high stand she before occupied, and that in the end we may be able to say that all these things have turned out rather to the furtherance of the important work in which, Mr Editor, I trust we are all engaged.

Yours in L. P. F.
CAPE BRETON, No. 27.

THE ABSTAINER.

Halifax, N. S., Sept. 15, 1857.

With this number the first year of the *Abstainer's* existence closes. It is fitting that we offer some remarks on our position and prospects.

We entered on our editorial duties with mingled feelings of diffidence and hope. The experiment appeared somewhat hazardous, and it was especially doubtful whether a *monthly* journal would excite sufficient interest, or be adequately sustained. Still we hoped that the friends of the cause would rally round their only periodical, notwithstanding its insignificant pretensions, and regard it as the forerunner of a better and more frequently-speaking organ. The cheapness of the paper was another consideration, which we supposed would operate greatly in its favour.

Our expectations have not been altogether disappointed. The success of the *Abstainer*, for the first year, is perhaps

as encouraging as might have been anticipated. True, the subscription-list ought to have been larger—and it must be, if our enterprise is to be vigorously conducted;—but we know that many held back, thinking of past experience, and others resolved to wait till our stability should be ascertained. All these, it may be fairly calculated, and many more, will now send in their names and give us their hearty support.

Editors are a self-complacent class.—They are apt to think that their work is faultless, and to hold criticism in sovereign contempt. We will not affect to be entirely free from these foibles. The *Abstainer*, we are proud enough to affirm, has been conducted in a respectable manner, and it occupies no mean rank among its contemporaries. Yet, after all, we are not satisfied. We want more liveliness—more power—better adaptation to the masses. And we want larger scope for action. This monthly sheet does not give us room enough. There are arguments, which ought to be spread abroad in their fulness and wide extent—facts, which should be set down in their minutest, though most horrid details—pleas and warnings, persuasion, pungent, piercing, requiring whole pages for their development. But we have no room for them.

Kind readers! will you give us room? Will you yield us such amount of support as shall encourage, at no distant period, an enlargement of our columns, as well as a more frequent issue?

We think it best to be shy of promises. Having already done what we could, how are we to do better? There is one way by which even this may be accomplished. If our numerous friends will oftener favour us with original articles, and regularly transmit to us truthful records of the doings of intemperance in their respective districts, signs of improvement will be unmistakably visible. We earnestly solicit their co-operation.

It is a noble cause. Is it not identified with all that is dear to man? Is it not conservative of health and happiness, and liberal in the bestowment of manifold benefits? Is not temperance one of the surest safeguards of youth? Does it not crown age with honour? Is it not married to virtue and religion? Has not God's blessing marvellously rested

on the efforts of its advocates? Should not all who bear the christian name hold themselves under solemn obligation to sustain Temperance Institutions? Can they be worthy of that name if they treat such Institutions with neglect or indifference?

The cry of ten thousand victims resounds in our ears. The wail of the forsaken—of beggared wives, and destitute widows and orphans, is heard on every hand. The demon-laugh of the trafficker, derisive and defiant, reproves our sloth. On, brothers, on!

Our Publisher says that he wants his money, and must have it. He is right. The unpaid subscription is *his* money.—Give him his own.

The terms of the *Abstainer* are *payment in advance*. Send your lists, brethren—long lists. Let us have a merry beginning of our new year. Canvass in every direction, and let us know the result the first week in October.

We observe in the *Christian Messenger* a letter from the Rev J. C. Hurd, of Canso, stating that he has received authority to introduce the Order of the "Templars" into this Province, and enunciating the various excellencies of that Order.

There is very little difference between the "Templars" and the "Sons." If it be argued that the expense of membership in the former Order is less than in the latter, the reply is, that the Subordinate Divisions have now the entire control of their funds, and may regulate their fees and dues at their pleasure, so as to suit all persons. The admission of females to full membership, which is also a peculiarity of the Order of Templars, will not be so popular here, we think, as in the States. Our female friends are admitted as visitors, and that is as much as the majority of them desire. Were they to become full members it is not at all likely that they would be inclined to take part in our discussions. Probably their influence is greater under the present arrangement than it would be under any new modification.

A temperance man should pause before he take any step that is likely to produce division and weaken existing organizations. It would be far better, in