

Notwithstanding numerous hindrances and drawbacks, to which every good cause is liable, I am disposed to think that on the whole the Temperance enterprise in this Province is on the advance. Reverses have been suffered in some localities, and here and there individuals may be found who have been lulled into the slumber of indifference; but those things should not discourage us. Every good work is exposed to alternations of prosperity and decline. It is our duty to observe the causes of decay, to endeavour to arrest its progress, and constantly to stimulate each other to increased activity. These purposes are sought to be accomplished by the periodical gatherings of the members of our Order.

It affords me pleasure to state that the resolution of the Grand Division at its recent Annual Session, recommending that public meetings should be frequently held, under the auspices of the Subordinate Divisions, has been carried into effect in many parts of the Province, with very favourable results. I trust that there will be a universal response to that resolution, and that during the winter months the leisure that is enjoyed will be to a large extent devoted to the prosecution of the undertaking in which we are engaged. Unable as we are at present to obtain the services of a general Lecturer and Agent, it is incumbent on us to make good use of our own resources, and to employ whatever talent exists among us for the furtherance of our noble object. The men of Nova Scotia need not be dependent on foreign aid. A little more self-reliance, with brotherly encouragement, will suffice to develope powers and qualifications amply adequate to the exigencies of the case.

I know but little of the Divisions in Halifax County, excepting those located in the city, which appear to be in a satisfactory state. Our brethren in the metropolis have to bear the heaviest end of the burden, and they bear it cheerfully.—There are also difficulties and discouragements peculiarly incident to their position, and requiring no small amount of practical wisdom.—Eitherto they have been found equal to the task. We may still confide in them.

Of the County of Pictou I can only say that the work is about stationary. Union and energy will revive it.

The reports from Hants County are of varied character. But all speak of the increase of drunkenness, especially in the vicinity of the railway operations. In many of the shanties erected for the accommodation of the laborers liquor is sold in