

Bro. R. M. Barratt presented the following report of progress, from the committee appointed at last annual meeting, on "Bands of Hope":

The committee appointed by this G. D. in Oct. last, in reference to matters connected with Bands of Hope, have given some attention to the subject with a view to a more systematic organization, and more general recognition of its claims by the Order at large,—claims theoretically acknowledged by many members who yet are not in a position to give their aid in working them, in consequence of not being able to accept themselves that portion of the pledge which prohibits the use of tobacco. This difficulty has been experienced in many localities throughout this Province, and at the present time the committee appointed by three of the city Divisions to organize a Band under their joint management, feel the difficulty in common with the two Divisions who already have such bands, as regards the unwillingness of many members to subscribe to the tobacco portion of the pledge.

The committee propose to prepare a code of laws and frame a ritual more suited to the capacities of children than those now in use; and trusting that your committee will, at the next meeting of this Grand Division, be able to make a more satisfactory report, they would urge upon the attention of those present, the duty of engaging in the formation and fostering of Bands of Hope, as nurseries from which they will derive in the future strength and material for the carrying on of the Temperance work.

On behalf of the Committee,

Submitted in L., P., and F.,

R. M. BARRATT.

The Grand Scribe read the following communication from the Provincial Secretary's office, acknowledging receipt of copy of resolution passed at the January session, in reference to appointment of persons to office by Governments,—and which was ordered to be spread on the Records:

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

*Halifax, 25th Feb'y., 1864.*

SIR,—I am requested by the Hon. Provincial Secretary to inform you that your communication with its accompanying resolution passed by the Grand Division, Sons of Temperance, of