

Your Committee tender their warmest congratulations to the friends of sobriety and good order everywhere, on the unmistakeable evidence of an increasing interest in the cause of Temperance in general, and of our Order in particular, which is manifesting itself in almost every part of our jurisdiction. This awakening interest calls us to a more earnest and ardent devotion of all our powers to increase this interest, and give it such a direction as will result in the greatest practical effect for good.

It is a truth, whether our philosophy of human society will account for it or not, that

“ There is a tide in the affairs of men,  
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune,”

and the amount of effort required to accomplish any desired result is much less when this tide is in our favor than when it is against us. The present is a propitious time for our labor of love. The horizon, which but a few months ago was hung with darkness, is now streaked with the dawn of a temperance revival, which, if we are but faithful to our mission, will cheer many a desolate home, will save from disgrace and ruin many a tempted youth, and will be crowned with results and consequences which the cycles of eternity alone can fully unfold.

Of the ultimate triumph of our cardinal principles we cannot for a moment doubt, while we have any confidence in truth, faith in God, or hope for humanity. In the great conflict of life the cause of truth and righteousness may seem to be stricken down for the time, but our reverses should only teach us wisdom, and we should rally our forces again to the battle, strengthened and made wiser by the experience of the past.

The causes conspiring to produce the present hopeful state of the Order, and, by implication, of the cause of temperance generally, are mainly these:

1st. The revision of our Ritual of Ceremonies. Experience has taught us that the more simple and plainer our forms, the more impressive they become, and the better adapted to that universal acceptance which is so desirable in an Order intended to scatter its blessings among the ranks of society. True beauty is not made up of meretricious ornaments, but of simple unadorned worth.

2d. The introduction of a swarm of Orders and institutions based on the central idea of total abstinence, but varied to meet the necessities of time, place and circumstances, real or imaginary, had divided our ranks, and, in the ratio of this divi-

sion, had weakened anything like we could hope and thought—is an indispensable in the temperance every temperance bringing back the false hope association. In many localities rectly, but reflection of public of thousands. cannot fail to this versatile a principles of the and immovable ments, the merest whim of fashion commands of a better mistake to support of the temperance meet these new institution that regulations. It comes and while moving destiny,” the addresses itself to all ings, and, in the nate Divisions, grades of society localities. It the instrumentality perfection will pervade evils of intemperance the friends of society 3d. Another, adding lustre to sister visitors are who supposes that can be successful influence, has weakened of the nineteenth