

AFTERNOON SESSION.

M. W. G. Lodge resumed business in due form. M. W. G. Chief in the Chair.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

M. W. G. Chief read his report which was as follows:

Most Worthy Grand Chief's Address.

To the Most Worthy Lodge of British Templars:

M. W. OFFICERS AND MEMBERS—Another year of our Order's history is completed, and we are again brought together in Annual Session to take a retrospect of its labors, and lay plans for its future. Let us sincerely unite in returning thanks to Almighty God for his many mercies to us as individuals, and for what he has permitted us as a society to do in His vineyard. It becomes my duty in accordance with the Constitution to present my Annual Address—a duty which I approach with much diffidence when I contrast the high responsibilities of my position with the experience of my years.

Permit me to congratulate you as being the representatives of the most numerous and most perfectly organized body of Total Abstemians in the Dominion of Canada; and also on the increasing growth and strength of the Order in this and other parts of the Empire.

Though we have not succeeded in our work to the full extent of our desires, yet we have accomplished much, and our principles and peculiarities as an organization have gained attention and confidence wherever they have been fully set forth. The cause of Temperance is spreading generally, and if our Order is to succeed it must keep pace with the progressive spirit of the age; we must not be content to walk in the "old beaten track," the old ruts of the past, except as to principles. We must have some new, prominent, distinctive features; and we have the talent, which, I trust, will be enlisted at this session, to bring out these characteristics and make our Order the institution of this age and nation.

STATE OF THE ORDER.

For the numerical and financial position of this Order I refer you to the reports of the Secretary, Treasurer and Financier, and I will content myself with a statement of its general condition and progress:

Ontario is still laboring under disadvantages: the Order in this Province has not recovered from the shock received by the disruption on the "Supreme question," and will not until a re-union is effected with the B. A. Order—which, allow me to say, bids fair for completion. British Templarism suffers in Ontario from the active, and too often uncharitable, opposition of older and stronger organizations; but most keenly feels the effects of financial embarrassment, under which the Order has been laboring since 1865, thus not only crippling the efforts to extend the Order, but discouraging the Lodges already existing by continual appeals for subscriptions to "Grand Lodge Debt." However, amidst all these drawbacks, the Order has made progress during the past year, and has never been able to report to this M. W. G. Lodge so large a membership, and so influential a position as at present; and which would have been largely augmented had the Lecturer of the Grand Lodge been able to spend his time, as anticipated, in the regular work. But this Province, though numerically in the rear,