

vicious year in the history of the Grand Division. At the Semi-Annual Meeting I had the pleasure of reporting the establishment of nine new Divisions, and since that time, I am happy to say, two additional Charters have been granted—making in all, eleven. In addition to this, two Divisions, which had been virtually dead to us, have been restored to life, and are now standing boldly forth on the front ranks. This state of prosperity, must, Brothers, be highly gratifying to us all, and I have no doubt, if we work well together, next year we can double this number, and instead of averaging one new Division a month, we will average *two*. Let us, by all legitimate means, strive to do so. On the whole, the Deputies Reports, so far as received, are encouraging. Everything appears to be going on very well. The order, I am pleased to say, in the city of Quebec, has taken a new start. At the time of our meeting there last summer, as you are aware, the Divisions were in a very languishing state. Now the meetings are well attended by men and women, and everything betokens healthful activity. May it long continue so. I have, personally, been able to visit but few Divisions during my term of office. In Sept., however, I made it my duty to pay a visit to those under the care of D.G.W. P., W. G. Slack, in the Montreal District, and was highly repaid for my trouble. In fact, I was perfectly surprised to see the progress one of these Divisions had made. Five years before, when I was an humble active Member of it, we often experienced difficulty in raising a quorum—now there seemed as much difficulty to find room for its attending members. I allude to Howard Division, No. 1. May it long continue to stand at the head of our Order, not only as first in number of organization, but as A 1 in our ranks. The other Divisions, organized at a subsequent date to the Howard, progress most favorably, and exert a great influence in their various localities.

Shortly after our meeting in Quebec, the Grand Scribe transmitted to me a letter he had received from the M.W. Patriarch. This communication had been written, at a subsequent period, to the one which was submitted at the Semi-Annual Session, and on which, action was taken. It contained a most urgent request that this Grand Division send Delegates to the convocation which he had called to take place at Cape May. It appeared to me that the future prosperity of our noble Order depended so much on this meeting, and any action that might be taken at it, and hence the importance of our having a representative there, that I unhesitatingly recommended your Grand Scribe, Bro. J. S. Hall, to attend, which he accordingly did. The meeting came off, and was attended by representatives from Canada East and West, as also New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, &c. Several important subjects came up for discussion, such as the granting of dispensations to Sons in the American Army, to open Divisions; the granting of farther privileges to Lady Visitors, and, also, the subject of allowing youths under eighteen years of age to hold office in Subordinate Divisions. The representative from Canada, East spoke strongly in favor of the latter measure. In regard to the first question, Grand Divisions were empowered to grant dispensations to such of their Members who desired to open Divisions in the Army. However, no definite action was taken with regard to the two latter subjects. They were left over for further discussion on a future occasion. The subject of the meeting of the National Division claimed particular attention, and after due deliberation it was agreed that there should be no Meeting held until June, 1862, and that it should then take place in the city of Montreal, provided the affairs in the United States continued as at present, but should a change take place, as to allow of a Meeting at Nashville, then it should be held there, and the advice of the Convocation to the Executive was, to call the next Meeting of the National Division at that time and place, under the above limitation. The M.W.P., however, while expressing his own concurrence, stated that before taking any definite action, he would take the opinion of the Grand Divisions who were not there represented. As far as I am aware, the M.W.P. has not, as yet, issued any definite instructions as to the Meeting in 1862; it will, therefore, be necessary for us to take immediate action in this affair, and petition for this next Session to be held in our jurisdiction. There is no reason to suppose that the Grand Divisions, which the M.W.P. will consult, will put any obstacles in the way of our having this meeting next summer. The Grand Division of Canada-West has already agreed to give us their favorable support, as also that of Nova Scotia.—