

ships under very favorable circumstances. Most of the Reports received by me are favorable as to the state of the Divisions reported, and the appearance of the Divisions visited by myself warrant me in saying that the prosperity of the cause in those localities are much more encouraging than they have been for a considerable time past. At the same time, it must be confessed, that in other localities our prospects are far from encouraging. Some Divisions have ceased to exist and many more are in a very languid and depressed condition. Still we have much to encourage us in our onward course, with energy, and determination to work one and all of us in our different spheres, seeking opportunity whenever it can be found to advance the interests of the Order with a humble dependence upon Divine aid, we must be successful.— Let us put our shoulder to the wheel and the car of temperance will once more roll on triumphantly in our midst.

Since our last meeting it has been my privilege to attend the Annual Session of the N. D., held at Providence, R. I. The most cheering accounts were given of the renewed life and energy pervading the Order throughout the length and breadth of the land. Many matters of great interest to our Order were brought under the notice of the meeting and after mature deliberation disposed of—all of which you will have an opportunity of considering when the proceedings are published. A few of these matters I will now take the liberty of bringing under your notice :—

A request having been made from various sections of the country for a new Ritual, a committee was appointed at the Session of the N. D., held at Lexington, to prepare a new Ritual and to report at the succeeding meeting.— The Ritual, as presented by the committee, was taken up and discussed, clause by clause, and ultimately adopted with amendments. The old Ritual forms the ground work of the new one, adopting from the one at present in use such portions as were deemed improvements, forming a work such as will give satisfaction to all parties, and set this matter of Ritual finally at rest. The M. W. P. deeming it a matter of the utmost importance that measures should be adopted to employ Lecturers, and to disseminate written information on the subject of temperance throughout the country, and recommended the establishment of a permanent fund for this purpose, leaving it with the N. D. to devise the proper means for raising that fund. The matter was remitted to a committee, and after mature deliberation reported that they considered the object sought to be obtained was one of paramount importance—that they did not under present circumstances deem it advisable to make any alteration in the constitution of subordinates, but that each G. D. should be recommended to take such steps as to them should seem best for carrying out the important recommendation of the M. W. P. I trust, therefore, you will give this matter your most serious consideration, and that you will adopt such measures as will enable us to carry out the views of the M. W. P. in disseminating a correct