

time, being the fourth division in the city to "accept the situation." As you are all aware, we didn't do it without a struggle ; but we have never had cause to regret it. But for all the admissions we only numbered 167, and 70 lady visitors, when the returns for the last of the ten years were made up.

From 1867 to 1875, we admitted 400 members and 200 lady visitors. The status of the letter was changed to that of full members in 1875, and we closed that year with only 124 members, all told, a larger number, however, than any other city Division, and only exceeded by one division in the whole Province. Ten years later we had reached 303, our highest point, and I think the largest number upon which per capita tax was ever paid in any one quarter by any Division in the Dominion. There are said to have been Divisions in some places numbering more than 300, but I have never seen the returns.

When we celebrated our fortieth anniversary, 10 years ago, we numbered 280, but our last returns to Grand Division only showed 197.

And it may be asked : Why this decline in numbers ? Does it indicate weakness and decay ?

To fully answer the first question would take more time than I am allowed, and I pass it for the present, to answer the second question with an emphatic NO ! There is no weakness or decay in the Mayflower Division. We are financially stronger to-day than ever before in our history. Fourteen years ago—I take 1883 merely as an illustration, as my eye accidentally caught the figures in the returns—we had \$92.68 to our credit, after paying all liabilities, and were the tenants at will of a landlord who might put us on the street at a month's notice. On the 31st December, 1897, we had on hand and invested \$638.50, a sum within a few dollars of being sufficient to clear off the mortgage on this building, leave us half-owners of the land and the structure, while we