

press with all the talent which we can command the principles of total abstinence as the duty of all—and especially the claims of the Order as being the best system for realizing this great object—and, as connected therewith, the duty of all to use every suitable means for bringing to an end the traffic in intoxicating liquors.

To accomplish this your Committee believe it absolutely necessary to employ under the direction of this Grand Division one or more able and devoted temperance lecturers.

And while calling to our aid the living voice of the lecturer, your Committee would also express their belief that the Grand Division must still sustain a temperance periodical for the purpose of advocating our principles, and holding intercourse with the Order throughout the Province.

The friends of temperance throughout Nova Scotia have for a number of years been pleading with the Legislature for a Prohibitory Law. But, hitherto, the cry of a great multitude of fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters has been in vain. On others, not on us, devolves the terrible responsibility of refusing that righteous prayer. But we must still press our petitions. And this Committee would recommend that no time be lost in preparing for the circulation of Petitions to be presented to the Legislature at its next session.

Among other duties imposed upon your Committee, was that of reporting upon the returns which have been forwarded by a number of Subordinate Divisions to the Grand Scribe, which were considered to be informal. Of these there are no fewer than *nine*—all of which your Committee find to be irregular. Time does not permit us to specify the defects in each. Nor, indeed, can your Committee believe that this is necessary, as the blanks furnished to Subordinate Divisions are so plain that your Committee feel themselves under the painful necessity of declaring their belief that such irregularity in filling them up can only be attributed—first, to the carelessness of those officers intrusted with their preparation, and then, to the Division whose duty it is to have the returns read before they are transmitted to the Grand Scribe.

Your Committee would recommend that when such Returns are offered to the D.G.W.P. they should be refused—even though it might cause delay in forwarding them to the G. S. His receiving them is, after all, a mistaken kindness to the Divisions by which they are presented,—although, no doubt,