

Our St. Stephen Letter

"Ring the bell softly, there's crape on the door" is the song that is popular with the rum sellers just now. After the word from Fredericton came, that the cases before the court had gone in favour of the town and several of the parties interested had been summoned before Justice Crilly to pay their fines, a feeling of uneasiness began to manifest itself among those violators of the law who of late have exhibited so much bravado, some of whom had openly declared their intention of "running the town" for awhile.

Monday morning, many of these dens around the bridge and near the Railway Station presented a different front from that shown by them on Saturday.

Those which did not have their shutters on failed to show such a display of bottles and decanters as they did a few days previous, and many of the signs indicating what kind of poisons were for sale within had disappeared.

In fact, a stranger, if looking for a bar-room would find it very difficult to locate one.

Some of the rum-sellers I am told hung crape on their doors in token, I suppose of the death of their best friend, King Alcohol.

One of the most notorious persistent offenders had quite a long interview with our W. P. J. T. Whitlock Esq. in regard to the future action of the temperance party, and he probably did not get much from the interview that would tend to console him or soothe his troubled spirit, for he was informed that it was our intention to collect fines already imposed, bring on as many second offences as we could at once and follow that up with third offences, if they still persisted in their violation of law—in fact that we were determined to push this matter as far as lies in our power.

He said if that was the programme he was done. He has paid his fine and has not had the shutters off his shop since, and rumor has it that he has cleared all the liquor out of his store, but we have been fooled so many times by just such actions that we do not place much confidence in such things. However there is a marked change in the aspect of the temperance question in this town within the last day or two, and that for good.

A more hopeful feeling prevails among the friends of the cause, and it is hoped that all interested in getting rid of the curse will rouse themselves to action, now that there is a chance to accomplish something.

We have arranged for a public temperance meeting next Thursday night under Division auspices, this to be the first of a series to be held at regular intervals during the coming winter.

The question is receiving just now particular attention in most of the social services of many of our churches, and the united prayers of the Christian people of the town are going up to the throne of God, daily, that He will deliver us from the curse. But there are a great many people who are not so much in sympathy with the evil as they are indifferent to it, who think that as long as it does not harm them individually what is the use of bothering with the question at all, these are the people we want to reach and stir up to a sense of their danger from the traffic and of their responsibility in the matter of its suppression.

We must strive to break down their indifference and get them interested in the work.

Our fraternal visit to Brunswick Division at Old Ridge on last Monday evening, in response to the invitation extended to us on the night of the entertainment, was in every respect a success.

We met at our hall at 7 P. M. and shortly afterward started with a jolly company, composed, principally, of those who participated in the recent entertainment, filling Bro. McAlony's barge comfortably.

In addition to our own company we had the pleasure of the presence of sister Goss of Stewart Division of Upper Falls.

On our arrival at the hall of Brunswick Division we found them about concluding the initiating of three candidates; that ceremony over we were at once admitted to the body of the hall and received a cordial welcome.

An intermission was declared in order that we might get acquainted and we all availed ourselves of the

opportunity of knowing our sturdy brothers and fair sisters of Brunswick Division.

After a half hour of pleasant chat and cheerful song we were called to order by the very efficient W. P. Gordon Grant and the intellectual part of the programme taken up. Speeches were delivered by Bros. J. T. Whitlock, C. N. Vroom, J. M. Murchie, Sedge Webber, H. Stevenson, and F. M. Murchie of Howard Division, and Bro. John Grant of Brunswick. Bro. L. W. Hughes as usual was prepared with a reading and Bro. Frank Richardson of Lawrenceville Div. gave a recitation.

That Brunswick Division is not behind in this line was shown by the rendering of a comic recitation by sister Grant, and a reading by sister Chase which showed her to be possessed of considerable elocutionary talent.

It would take too long to review the many excellent points brought out in the different speeches, all of which were good, and complimentary to Brunswick Division which certainly is to be commended for the progress it has made during the short time it has been organized.

Their regalia were models of whiteness and as emblems of one of our cardinal principles, Purity, could not be surpassed, and in the general work of the order they show themselves quite familiar.

At the conclusion of this "feast of reason and flow of soul" the division was closed in due form and something more substantial substituted, and we were soon in the full enjoyment of a bountiful repast such as the fair ladies of Old Ridge are noted for providing on such occasions.

With so many delicacies before us and such good company with whom to enjoy them I'm afraid some of our number were tempted to become intemperate in their eating, and I'm sure such delicious coffee would tempt anyone to try a second cup.

Games, social chat and flirtations filled in the remainder of one of the pleasantest evenings of our experience, and with "Auld Lang Syne," "God save the Queen" and cheers for Brunswick and Howard Divisions we started for home again satisfied that such fraternal gatherings do much to cement the bond of brotherhood among us as individual members, and serve to build up and strengthen the divisions participating.

A member, whose idea of a good time used formerly to be to get on a spree and spend all his money, and then feel miserable for a month afterwards, said to me awhile ago, why I had no idea you fellows knew how to enjoy yourselves at all but I see you have got the key to the best times going—and so we have.

We had an old time gathering last night at Old Howard, the seats being well filled and much enthusiasm manifested.

Owing to a press of business we did not have much time for entertainment, but the committee were prepared for the occasion and furnished us with a few excellent samples of what they had in store. Bro. Hiram Mills gave us one of his unique and earnest talks on the situation, urging every member to stand by his colors and let everybody know that he is a temperance soldier.

The W. P. applying Bro. Mills' remarks to the present contest between the rum party and those enlisted under our banner, emphasized the fact that, with a division of the importance and standing of "Old Howard" in the community, the active work against the rum-sellers should not be left upon the shoulders of two or three men who were willing at a considerable sacrifice to themselves to bear the brunt of the fight, but that every member should interest himself in the work and render all the assistance in his power to the authorities and others in their efforts to overcome this giant evil. Next Friday night we are to be favored with an address on the Pledge by Rev. G. M. Campbell and it is to be hoped that many of those members who seem to regard the pledge very lightly, judging from the number of re-obligations they have experienced, will be present to hear this address, for I am certain they will hear something which will assist them in their struggle against appetite, and the many temptations with which they are surrounded.

In the march of the Salvation Army the other night, one of the torch bearers was the late proprietor

of the famous Red Front, one of the worst rum dens in town.

Quite a change for him and the town. The Red Front is now used as a grocery store and its late proprietor cannot do much harm as long as he is in the ranks of the Salvation Army. I hope to be able in my next letter to give you the result of the trial of several cases which have been laid before justice Crilly today.

HOWARD,
St. Stephen, N. B., Nov. 27th, 1886.

OIL CITY DIVISION, NO. 116.

MR. EDITOR.—Often times having the privilege of reading your valuable paper and noting the different articles written with reference to the grand old order, the Sons of Temperance throughout your section of the Dominion, it occurred to me that it might interest your readers; to hear that we are alive here, in the centre and hub of oildom, in the grand old Keystone state. It is an old and wise saying that oil and water will not mix, but we have to a great extent violated the rule. We have a division here, Oil City Division 116, in good working order. Our membership at present is nearly fifty in good standing, with great things in store, and expect to array one hundred and over members before the "robins nest again." Please remember that we organized in May with twenty two members. At present our officers are:

G D Deets, W P;
D Clark, W A;
W H Hains, R S;
Phil Lewis, A R S;
Miss Tillie Van Orden, F S;
Dr. Wm. Forster, Treas;
Mrs. A. Naylor, Chap;
Wm. Maple, Con;
Miss Effie Weaver, A C;
Miss D Webster, I S;
Jas. Cookson, O S;
Jno. T Parson, P W P.

The order includes among its members the best persons in town.

Jno. T Parson our P W P belonged to the Toronto Division in Canada, and is one of our most ready workers. It seems as if long standing in the order only kindles instead of quenches the flames of Love.

L D Kellogg another old warhorse has a long record and a good one. Joining the order first in Syracuse N Y just after the birth of our order.

B Nichols hails from the old Invincible No. 166. Nova Scotia. With such talent as we have we can sit around our natural gas fire and bid defiance to the invectives hurled at us by those who are opposed to Love, Purity, and Fidelity. With a hearty God speed.

I say good—
Yours Respectfully,
J. D.

RUM IN JUDGMENT.

A SCATHING ARRAIGNMENT.

Under legal sanction this monster-demon intrenches himself in every city, town, village, hamlet and corner of our country, from which he has not already been dislodged, and there unfurls his banner of death and destruction, both temporal and eternal. Every liquor-house, from the largest distillery to the smallest dram-shop, is an arsenal of the devils filled with the implements of destruction, from which he hurls his firebrands into every nook and corner of the surrounding country; disseminates strife, and hatred, and murder; scatters woe, and want, and anguish, and despair broadcast all over the land, and spreads abroad a moral contagion in comparison with which the deadliest pestilence is harmless indeed. And with all this traffic is legitimate and right!

We enact laws for the suppression of crime and at the same time legalize the traffic that produces more crime than all other causes combined! We establish courts and enact penalties for the conviction and punishment of criminals, and then give legal sanction to the agent that causes men to trample all law, whether human or divine, under their unhallowed feet! We build prisons with one hand and with the other make culprits and felons to fill them! We found lunatic asylums in wisdom and mercy, and then in folly and cruelty commission agents to make the wretched creatures who are to dwell in them! We erect gibbets as a terror to evil doers, and then turn loose the demon that makes the red-handed criminals who

perished on them! Such a suicidal course mocks at consistency, and outrages all common sense, justice and religion.

"But have we the right to prohibit this traffic?" inquires the time-serving politician or timid voter. Have we the right to prohibit swindling and perjury? Have we the right to prohibit theft and slander and murder? Have we the right to prohibit theft and slander and murder? Have we the right to prohibit adultery and fornication? Most unquestionably we have. Then we have the right to prohibit that traffic which causes mobs and riots, leads to swindling and perjury, incites to theft and slander and murder, and fosters adultery and fornication and every other vileness.

"But it is despotic to prevent men from making, selling and drinking intoxicating beverages," shout the makers, the venders, the consumers, and their apologists, all in a chorus.

It is despotic in the highest degree to sacrifice the prosperity and happiness of the many to the greed and gain of the few. Whom does the traffic in strong drink benefit in a financial point of view, from which it can be regarded as of any benefit at all. In all other respects—intellectually, morally, socially, politically, religiously—it is a curse, only and always a curse to all who are connected with it. But whom does it benefit financially, the many or the few? Answer, ye howling advocates of this unholy traffic. It pours wealth into the coffers of the few by sending poverty, and want, and beggary to the very hearthstone of many an otherwise prosperous and happy family. All know this.

It aggrandizes one by degrading a thousand. All know this. It enables one family to roll in all the luxuries that wealth can purchase by depriving a hundred or more of the commonest necessities of life. All know this. It places a golden spoon in the hands of the vender's child by taking bread of daily support out of the mouths of the helpless babes of his unfortunate victims. All know this. For every dime it puts into the dealer's drawer it sends a thrill of anguish to the inmost heart of many a sorrowing, suffering wife or mother. All know this. By legalizing this traffic, we give the few the power to prey like vultures upon the many, to fatten on the spoils of the daily labor of the poor and the inherited wealth of the rich, to send woe and want and despair to thousands of worthy families, and to speed blight and ruin throughout the land. Say now, which is despotic?

TEMPERANCE NOTES.

A large attendance of members of Victoria Temple, Junior Temple, paid a fraternal visit to Victoria Templars of Honor, this week, at their rooms, Market building. The visitors were welcomed in a fitting address by W. C. Templar, J. Fleming, of Victoria Temple, and responded to by Assistant Governor W. H. Smith, of the Junior Templars, after which a very interesting musical and literary programme was successfully carried out as follows: Recitation, 'A little child shall lead them,' by H. Thomas, Junior Temple; harmonic solo, J. Warren, Junior Temple; recitation, 'The Deacon's Courtship,' E. Watson, Junior Temple; reading, 'How Covell Counted his Shingles,' Jas. Whitenect, Victoria Temple; reading, 'The Life-boat,' J. Daley, Junior Temple; address, C. Powers, Victoria Temple; reading, W. Cosman, Junior Temple; reading, W. C. Simpson, Victoria Temple; harmonic solo, J. Daley, Junior Temple; address, J. A. S. Mott, Victoria Temple; reading, Fred Kee, Junior Temple; reading, J. S. Currie, Victoria Temple; reading, Master Jameison, Junior Temple; duet, J. E. Goodere and T. E. Dyer, Victoria Temple; closing address by G. A. J. Walker, Junior Temple. The closing odes were sung, after which the visitors dispersed.

Place of Meeting, Divisions, Numbers, Night of Meeting, and name of Deputies.

St. Stephen; Howard, 1; Friday; S. Webber; Milltown, St. Stephen; Wilberforce, 3; Monday; H. McAllister.
Market Building, St. John; Gurney, 5; Thursday; John F. Bell.
Orange Hall, Portland; Portland, 7; Monday; A. Y. Paterson.
Market Building, St. John; Albion, 14; Wednesday; J. S. B. DeVeber.
Gagetown; Queens, 21; Saturday; H. J. DeVeber.
Chatham; Northumberland, 37; Friday; G. Stothart.
St. John; Mariners and Mechanics, 35; Tuesday; Robt. Wills.
Hillsboro, Albert Co.; Albert, 39; Wednesday; John Steeves.

Collina Corner, Kings Co.; Collina, 129; Thursday; Jacob I. Keirstead.
Upper Gagetown, Queens Co.; Oxford, 134; Saturday; James B. Coy.
Benton, Carleton Co.; Garibaldi, 151; A. Teed.
St. Martins, St. John Co.; St. Martins, 164; Tuesday; Cudlip Miller.
Moncton; Moncton, 188; Monday; E. McCarthy.
St. George; St. George, 189; R. H. Davis.
Salisbury, West. Co.; Crystal Rock, 191; Saturday; C. A. Beck.
South Bay, St. John Co.; Lime Rock, 207; Monday; Wm. Roxborough.
Milford, St. John Co.; Everett, 238; Wednesday; John Waring.
Moncton; Intercolonial 243; Friday; Alex. Ford.
Victoria Mills, West. Co.; Victoria, 245; Thursday; A. J. Main.
Sackville, West. Co.; Sackville, 40; Tuesday; J. C. Harper.
Richibucto, Kent Co.; Richibucto, 42; Wednesday; A. Haines.
Kingston, Kent Co.; Kingston, 44; Tuesday; B. S. Bailey.
Newcastle; Newcastle, 45; Thursday; D. McGruar.
Point de Bute, West. Co.; Westmorland, 50; Thursday; J. Amos Trueman.
Hopewell Hill, Albert Co.; Golden Rule, 51; Tuesday; L. R. Moore.
Pennfield, Charlotte C.; Safeguard, 53; Saturday; W. N. Bucknam.
Cambridge, Queen's Co.; Johnston, 62; Saturday; George S. Wilson.
Dalhousie; Dalhousie, 64; Monday; G. Haddow.
Baie Verte; Baie Verte, 65; Wednesday; R. Goodwin.
Dover, West. Co.; Dover, 70; Saturday; W. Steeves.
Carleton, St. John; Granite Rock, 77; Tuesday; Henry Finch.
Derby, North Co.; Nelson, 99; Monday; J. Betts.
Douglasstown, North Co.; Caledonia, 126; Tuesday; J. Henderson.
Mountville, Albert Co.; Home Circle, 244; Tuesday; E. E. Peck.
Baillie, St. James, Char. Co.; Baillie, 248; Wednesday; J. W. Mann.
Weldford, Kent Co.; Harcourt, 249; Saturday; H. Wadler.
Portland; Valley, 250; Tuesday; J. Fowler.
Butternut Ridge, King's Co.; Havelock, 251; Friday; E. Keith.
Petitcodiac, West. Co.; Petitcodiac, 252; Tuesday; D. Jonah.
Lewis Mountain, West. Co.; Sunnyside, Saturday; R. Lewis.
Deer Island, Char. Co.; Moss Rose 254; Saturday; A. T. Lloyd.
Millstream, Kings Co.; Britannia, 255; Friday; C. W. Weyman.
Little Ridge, Char. Co.; Spreading Oak, 256; Tuesday; A. F. Matheson.
Fredericton; Lansdowne, 257; Thursday; H. H. Pitts.
Kouchibouguac, Kent Co.; Union, 258; D. W. Grierson.
River Charlo, Rest. Co.; Charlo, 259; Thursday; J. H. Galbraith.
Steeves' Mountain, West. Co.; Mountain Rose, 260; Saturday; R. Lutz, Sr.
Lawrence Station, Char. Co.; Lawrenceville, 261; Saturday; F. S. Richardson.
Hampton, King's Co.; Spring, 262; Monday; G. Barnes.
Pomroy Ridge, Char. Co.; Mayflower, 263; Thursday; W. Moulton.
Scotch Ridge, Char. Co.; Iona, 264; Wednesday; Alex. M. McKenzie.
Oak Hill, Char. Co.; Oak, 265; Thursday; Dr. J. Harry Grimmer.
Tower Hill, Char. Co.; Wills, 266; Saturday; S. S. Smith.
Graves' Settlement, West. Co.; Rockland, 267; Friday; G. Johnston.
McAdam Junction, York Co.; Star Branch, 268; E. W. Brownell.
2d Falls, St. George Char. Co.; Stewart, 269; Saturday; A. Sherwood.
St. George, Char. Co.; Red Granite, 270; Saturday; T. McGowan.
Penobscus, King's Co.; Cardwell, 271; Thursday; J. W. Floyd.
St. Nicholas River, Kent Co.; Milltown, 272; Friday; J. Murray.
Hampton Village, King's Co.; Hampton, 273; Tuesday; G. Flewelling.
Bloomfield, King's Co.; Leading Star, 274; Thursday; O. A. Wetmore.
St. John, 102 King Street; Gordon Division, No. 275; Monday; H. P. Seadall.
Eagle Settlement, West'd Co.; Twilight, 276; Wednesday; G. A. Taylor.
Salisbury, Westmoreland Co.; Middleton, 277; Friday; Jas. Henry.
Healthland, Charlotte Co.; Rising Sun, 278; Tuesday; L. Hall.
Goshea Corner, Albert Co.; Star of Hope, 279; Thursday; D. W. Goodall.
St. Mary's, Kent Co.; Rosefield, 280; Saturday; W. Vincent.
Elgin, Albert Co.; Elgin, 281; Saturday; G. Smith, Jr.
Springfield, King's Co.; Springfield, 282; Friday; G. M. Wetmore.
Whites Cove, Grand Lake; Grand Lake, 283; H. E. White.
Clifton, Gloucester Co.; Gloucester Division 284; Wednesday; N. R. Ritchie.
Lewisville, Moncton; Lewisville, 285; Tuesday; John Keenan.
Port Elgin, West Co.; Fort Moncton, 286; Tuesday; W. M. Spence.
Centreville, Kings Co.; Centreville, 287; Saturday; H. W. Falkins.
Waterford, K. C.; Essex Division 288; Monday; John W. DeForest.
Dube, Carleton Co.; Centenary, 289; Wm. V. Benn.
Forest Glen, West. Co.; Forest Glen 290; Saturday; Miss A. Hubley.
ristol, Carleton Co.; Bristol Union, 291; Tuesday; Rev. John Gravinor.
East Florenceville, Carleton Co.; East Florenceville, 292; Saturday; Wm. Tompkins.
Waterville, Carleton Co.; Waterville, 293; Saturday; J. T. Fletcher.
Bath Carleton Co.; Ray of Hope, 294; Friday; Hubert Gray.
Lower Coverdale, Albert Co.; Coverdale 295; Tuesday; F. A. Steeves.
Canterbury, York Co.; Dufferin, 296; Friday; S. A. Baker.
River Louison, Restigouche Co.; Louison, 297; Friday; Donald Stewart.
Kirkland, Carleton Co.; Monument, 298; Thursday; John Lyons, Deputy.
Woodstock, Carleton Co.; Campbell, 299; Friday; S. McLeod.
Campbellton, Restigouche Co.; Campbellton, 300; Thursday; J. E. Price.
Manuhurst, King Co.; Lincluden, 301; Thursday; D. S. Mann.
Dundee, Restigouche Co.; Dundee, 302; Thursday; Jas. Crawford.
Morcamber, P. O. Kings Co.; Rising Star, 303; Wednesday; Martin Freeza.
Scotch Settlement, Westmorland Co.; McCarthy 304; David Murray.
Upper Millstream, Kings Co.; Millstream, 305; Zebulon Gaunce.
Gibson, York Co.; Gibson, 306; Friday; Jas. Pickard.
Portland, N. B.; Silver, 308; Friday; Rev. J. Spencer.
Old Ridge, Char. Co.; Brunswick Division, No. 309; Monday; Howard Maxwell.
Northampton; Carleton Co.; Caledonia, 310; Thursday; Geo. Watson.
Waterside, Parish of Harvey, Albert Co.; Gladstone No. 311; Saturday; Rev. S. C. Moore.
Poquiock, York Co.; Poquiock, 312; Wednesday; Edward Trne, Deputy.
North Lake, Canterbury; York County; Star No. 313; Hiram Vasey Deputy.
Janeville, Gloucester Co.; Janeville, 314; Saturday; Edward L. Caie, Deputy.
Kingsclear, York Co.; Kingsclear, 315; Saturday; Chas Kilburn, Sr. Deputy.
Rolling Dam, Charlotte Co.; Rolling Dam, 316; Monday; Neill McDermott.
Buctouche, Kent Co.; Buctouche, 317; Rev. J. D. Murray.
Mount Middleton, Kings Co.; Mount Middleton, 318; Friday; J. Shaw.