ST. STEPHEN LETTER.

Not much to report in the line of temperance work this week. Everybody has been so busy with Christmas work that little consideration has been given to other matters. Christmas day was wet and disagreeable and there being no sleighing it was rather quiet around town. It was a good day to gather around the "old hearthstone" and enjoy the delights of a family re-union.

Home influences are, unfortunately, too often sacrificed for those of the street, and there is where many a boy and girl begins the downward road to ruin. Make home a place of such attractiveness and harmony that the boys and girls will not want to leave as soon as they have swallowed their meals, and you have made one step towards keeping them from the paths of the destroy-

Very little drinking prevailed this year on Christmans day as compared with some years, and those who were indulging were mostly from Calais. Indeed, if it was not for the trade from across the line we would have but little drunkenness in St. Stephen, and that is one reason why it is so difficult to enforce the law here.

Almost a continuous stream of thirsty mortals from the seedy, bleer-eyed, red-nosed bummer, who has to beg the ten cents to get his drink, to the well dressed, prosperous editor, lawyer, merchant or mechanic, can be seen moving across the bridge and back, slipping in and field of labor. out the back and front doors of the rum-shops that cluster around the St. Stephen end of the bridge. It is a difficult matter to secure these men as witnesses, and, consequently, while the rum-shops in other parts of the town are closed these places. patronized almost entirely by Calais customers, do a flourishing business. If the Inspector was really in earnest though, he could soon stop that business, for, rather than be arrested when they came to our side of the river, they would appear when summoned as witnesses. I know our Calais friends would be glad if we could put a stop to it, for they are put to the expense of caring for our "drunks" while they have a Prohibitory law thoroughly enforced in their own city.

A building at the end of the bridge which has been a notorious den for some years has lately changed hands and the present owner has greatly improved it, and I understand it is to be leased by the Young Women's Christian Temperance Union and converted into a reading room for men and boys; a the latest papers and magazines.

Such a venture should receive encouragement from all who are interested in offsetting the evil attractions of the saloons and the young ladies deserve credit for their courage in undertaking this reform.

We have a noble band of temperance women in this town and if they had the ballot at their command there would be a different condition of affairs in existence as

regards the rum business. The meetings of the Divisions for this week and the first two days of the following week will be very important. We shall then elect the officers for one of the most important quarters in the year. If we wish to see an increase of members, impressive initiations, wide awake meetings and a general improvement in the work, it will be necessary to place in the chair the brother or sister with the best executive those best fitted for the work. While it is right and desirable to advance members from time to time in the different offices and give all who are qualified, and desire it, a chance to go through the chair and qualify for admission to the Grand Division, I think it is a great mistake to put incompetent members, who are not familiar with the work, in positions of responsibility, simply because they are of the proper age and are anxious to obtain the honors.

How humiliating it is, sometimes, when you have succeeded, after a long struggle in inducing some friend, of average intelligence and ability, to join the Division and for initiation, to see the beautiful and impressive ritual ceremony ling in the folds of her dress,—her ness, and the business of the evening gone through with in a loose, unsatisfactory manner.

brother back again for some time, if

stood that the qualifications for the office of Worthy Patriarch consisted of more than the fact that the candidate was twenty-one years of age, in fact that it was desirable also to have a thorough knowledge of the Constitution and Bye Laws and Rules of the Order, an acquaintance with the ceremonies, the more thorough the better, and the "dignified and courteous demeanour" which is absolutely necessary, I think those who aspire to that position might endeavour to educate themselves in those things before they are elected to the position. I hope that in all our Divisions wise choice will be made of those who shall be office-bearers for the coming quarter and that the beginning of the year may see an advance all along the line, that we may see our numbers largely increased and our influence growing throughout this

I am glad to hear of Bro. Hetherington's appointment as Lecturer and feel sure he will do some good work. During his stay among us he was ever earnest in the promotion of the cause and not afraid of work. An earnest and impressive talker, he is also possessed of a vein of humor which keeps his addresses from being too dry and tedious. I wish him every success in his new

HOWARD. St. Stephen, N. B., Dec. 26, 1889.

MR. HILTON'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

BY S. R. WRIGHT.

A cozy sitting-room, cheery with an open grate fire and crimson curtains at the windows, well drawn back to let in the bright sunshine of a clear December day.

In this pleasant room sat Mrs. Hilton, in a large easy chair which her husband had just wheeled in front of the grate, nowise interrupting a conversation from which he, at least, is extracting a good deal of merriment, for every now and then a bright smile lights up his dark handsome face, and his eyes dance with suppressed mirth. Not so with Mrs. Hilton, the fair, girlish face is clouded over with a look of pain, and the violet-blue eyes have a world of pain in their depths.

So my Queen Esther will not allow me to lay the half of my kingdom at her feet Christmas morning, place where they can meet and read | but will have none of these things; I am afraid I should not have asked her what was her petition, what was her request for that day, but simply give her all that my heart prompts.

Gilbert will you please stop jesting, I am too much in earnest for that. If you really want to give me a present I would value more than any other, only do what I ask.

Essie, my dear, it is most absurd the way you go on about that pledge or whatever you call it,—and now there is a touch of impatience in the tones of his otherwise melodious voice—one would actually think I was a common drunkard the way you

What is a common drunkard, Gil-

forgets himself as to drink to intoxi-

Then if no one ever took a social glass, or ever touched the vile poison, ability, and fill the other offices with there would not be found in all our land, one whom you now designate as a common drunkard, would there?

enough on this subject, - said Mr. Hilton, quite ignoring his wife's question. As a special favor do not when I find I have not sufficient promise. manliness to control my taste for drink, then I will take your pledge. But good-morning dear, I ought to be in the office now, he said, as he hurriedly glanced at his watch, and in another moment he was gone, not giving Mrs Hilton time to reply, unless the tear-drops which slowly rolled down her cheeks could be have brought him to the Division taken as such; one splashed down on a little knot of white ribbon nestrendered in such a bungling manner | badge of service in the broad field of as to entirely destroy its impressive- temperance reform. Another and have been home early. One o'clock, another, followed until the little rib- two o'clock, three o'clock had rung

If it was more generally under- Mrs. Hilton remembered this was to open the door for the unconscious description of intoxicating liquor as the day of their monthly prayer. master of the house. Two of the a beverage, and in all suitable ways meeting; she brushed the tears boys carried him in and another fol- discountenance its manufacture, sale, away as she arose from her chair and lowed behind, who seemed to be the and use. With a trembling hand half aloud said, Well! God can save spokesman of the party. Mrs Hil- Gilbert H Hilton was signed, and Gilbert if I cannot.

> trouble clouded her face save a little morning. quiver about the mouth which it the president, paved the way for her to put into execution that which she had determined upon before leaving left alone with her husband. Truly home. Mrs. Lamont said—Dear Sisters and fellow-laborers, let us have more faith in God. There are cases we come in contact with almost daily which it seems impossible to reach only through the medium of prayer, and we do pray for them but how often we ask, really not expecting to receive; to-day let us honor God by asking great things at His hand and expect great things. Now before we kneel if any of you have any special requests for prayer name them, and we will gather them all together and lay them at the feet of Him who is faithful that promised. Then one after another asked prayer for brother or friend, and soon Mrs. Hilton arose, and they who knew her best could not but wonder what unseen forces were at work to thus move her, for in a voice trembling with emotion she said, do so want the prayers of all the sisters this afternoon, for one very dear to me, that he may speedily see the error of his way and the great danger he is in by indulging in what is termed moderate drinking; and I would also ask prayers in my own behalf that God will give faith to believe He is able to do all that I ask, and patience to await his time. A solemn hush fell upon the little band for all seemed to understand it was of her husband she spoke. Then came such Jacob-like wrestling prayer as would surely bring an answer; and Mrs. Hilton went home

The day before Christmas, Mr. Hilton remarked at the dinner table, Essie, did you know my old college chum, Carleton, Gus Carleton is in

No Gilbert, but I am pleased to hear it, knowing how much you always thought of each other. Would scribe for the Journal.) you like to ask him up to tea this him to spend to-morrow with us.

sorry it is going to be a bachelor's shown him my Queen Esther, besides I do not care to leave you alone, but do not see how I can well do otherwise; the boys would think it strange if I were not there, especially, as Carleton is more particularly my friend; I will be home as early as I possibly can.

Mrs. Hilton knew it would be of no use to try to dissuade her husband from going, and so she merely said:

Gilbert, will you promise me then, Well, I snppose, one who so far that for this evening at least, you will not taste anything stronger than tea or coffee?

Are you at that same subject again, Essie? I tell you plainly, I will not bind myself to any such promise even for one night. No one ever saw me the worse of liquor. Essie I think we have talked long | No one can point the finger of scorn then no one, not even my wife, has a

> words were useless, player now seemed her only resource.

At eight o'clock, Mr Hilton, in full evening dress, with a spray of smilax and a white rose-bud in his buttonhole, bade his wife an affectionate good-night before leaving for the banquet, telling her not to wait up for him. But she felt that sleep was out of the question, so through that long night she waited and listened for the coming of him who was to! bon was baptised in a flood of tears; out on the still night air, and just as perchance by no means the first that the hour-hand of the little gold clock

The impression gained from that has received such, for alas! too many on her mantel pointed to four, she brought it, I will read it first, Gilbert the fact that we don't see that white ribbon, hearts, sorely stricken on the frosty street; they stopped; signing. and anguished by the drink curse! fearing she knew not what, she ran I do hereby solemnly promise that It was with a thrill akin to hope down the stairway and just in time I will hereafter abstain from every

Mrs Hilton heeded not this stam- A few hours later Mrs Hilton seemed hard to entirely repress. mering outflow of words, her atten- whispered softly in her husband's ear, Mrs. Hilton thought that prayer- tion being completely engrossed by Gilbert, God has sent me my longed meeting was just meant for her. The that quiet form now lying on the for Christmas present. few opening words of Mrs. Lamont, library couch. Has God forgotten to be gracious, Mrs Hilton cried in deep anguish of spirit, when she was

> "In paths that are not known, God leads his own.'

She would not have chosen this bitter cup of humiliation and suffering, yet out of it all could not God cause good to flow? About eleven o'clock Christmas morning, Mr. Hilton awoke from the sleep that drunkards sleep, and asked his wife what was the matter. She told him the story, not softening any of the details of that, to her, long night of anguish. He heard her quietly through, while the proud, handsome face was covered with a look of keenest shame.

I want to think for awhile, Essie, will you please leave me alone for a few hours, was all he said. All that long afternoon which Mrs Hilton spent in prayer for her husband, he was reviewing his life. The last night had shown him the dangerous precipice on the verge of which he was treading, and a few steps more in the downward way and he would be hurled into the dark, seething chasm of a drunkard's life, and the still darker, blacker chasm of a drunkard's hell when this life ended!

The sun was just setting in all the regal splendor that so well befitted the sunset of a Christmas day, when Mr Hilton asked for his wife; when she came he said, Essie, do you remember what I said a few weeks ago about taking a pledge when I found I had not sufficient manliness to control myself, that time came last in the waning daylight fortified and night; bring me a pledge and I will strengthened for that which followed. sign it. With a heart filled to overflowing Mrs Hilton said as she enough to violate this law.

evening perhaps, will account for of the sisters bear underneath the heard the sharp click of horse's hoofs so you may know just what you are

Hilton I presume. A gr-great time directly underneath he wrote I H S, Three o'clock found her at the at the club. Hil—Hilton a trifle which means, Essie, In His strength meeting, no trace of the morning's upset. Will be all right-by mo - along can I keep that pledge, Mr Hilton added.

Safe Refuge Division, N. B.

MR. EDITOR,—Our Division is getting on nicely. All our sessions are quite interesting as the members take an active interest in the work. We have the outside on the new hall. Messrs. Lombard, Nickerson and Harper deserve credit for the way they have pushed the work

We had a bazaar, the 18th inst. and had a very enjoyable time. The amount realized was \$46. Speeches were made by the Revds. Mr. Comben and Mr. Thompson and others. D. G. W. P.

Anagance Ridge, K. Co., Dec. 23, '89.

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY.—As has been their custom for several years past the members of the W. C. T. U. have decided to give a big dinner to the poor children in the Temperance Hall, on New Year's day. Such a ponderous undertaking must merit the sympathy of the entire community and hundreds of our citizens, should esteem it a great privilege to aid the ladies in this noble work. It is reported that Hon. A. F. Randolph claims the privilege of supplying all the turkeys on that occasion; don't let him do it. Merchants and other citizens who would like to contribute fruit, confectionery or nick-nacks, will send them in early to the coffee room; it is open every day and evening. While the children of happy homes are lovingly cared for at this season, those who are able will find this a golden opportunity to bring joy to the hearts of many a poor boy and girl.

ANOTHER BATCH. -It is reported that several Scott Act violators are on the road to the police court. No Sympathy can now be expected for the man daring

RESOLUTION

(To be moved by some Brother in active Divisions, where they do not already sub)

Believing that our officers and members should be kep informed as to evening, or perhaps you would like the doings of the order, and the duties of their several officers, therefore

RESOLVED, that this Division subscribe for six copies of the TEMPERANCE Thank you Essie, but the boys Journal, a weekly, 8 page paper, the Organ of the Sons of Temperance of thought it would be nice to banquet America, published at Fredericton, N. B., Canada, and that the paper be Carleton to-night at the club. I am sent to the address of the Worthy Patriarch of this Division for distribution each Division night, and that a cheque be issued on the Treasurer for the sum dinner, for I would like to have of \$4.20 in payment of the same, and the money forwarded to the Editor.

OF TEMPERANCE





EVERY MEMBER SHOULD HAVE ONE.

It has been found that one drawback to the more rapid extension of the order of the S. of T. is the inability of the members to know each others is public as Sons. It is generally conceded that a way to overcome this is the at me and say: there is a man who more general adoption by the members of the order of the authorized badge has not control of himself, and until pin, to be worn on the lapell of the vest or as a tie pin.

This Badge Pin stands for a principal and it is expected and hoped that mention this matter to me again, and right to fetter me with pledge or the members will all stand by the emblematic triangle of the orders, and wear it in public. It is for us to stand by our colors, that we may be living Poor Mrs Hilton; she knew turther epistles known and read of all men.

The lady members of the order are expected to wear them as well as the male members.

THE PRICES LOW ENOUGH FOR ALL.

The prices of the pins is within the reach of all the membership. Plated Pin, - - - - -Heavy Rolled Plate (fine) - - -- \$1.50 Solid Gold,

Ladie's Heavy Rolled Gold Plate Lace Pin, \$1.00. Pins sent all over the world at these prices.

A handsome badge pin is given away to every new subscriber to the Sons of Temperance paper, the TEMPERANCE JOURNAL, published at Fredericton, N. B. The subscription price, for this 8 page weekly is \$1.00 per year this includes the badges as well: Or for \$1.50 a copy for a year of the JOURNAL and a Lady's Gold Plated Lace Pin

S. of T. Bureau Box 325 Fredericton, N. B.