

# GRAND DIVISION OF MICHIGAN.

ANNUAL SESSION OF THE GRAND DIVISION OF  
THE SONS OF TEMPERANCE OF THE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN.

YPSILANTI, Oct. 10th, 1888.  
(Continued.)

## REPORT OF THE GRAND SCRIBE.

**Grand Officers and Worthy Representatives.**—Through the tender mercies of our Heavenly Father, we have been spared to meet again in the capacity of a Grand Division. In fulfillment of my office as Grand Scribe it becomes my duty to give an account of my stewardship; and the condition and workings of this noble and time-honored Order in this jurisdiction, for your consideration. But I am very sorry to say that, owing to so many surrounding circumstances, I will not be able to make a report satisfactory to myself, therefore it cannot be satisfactory, nor interesting to you. While we cannot retrace steps already taken, we are permitted to review the road we have trodden, and the acts we have committed, and thus gather lessons that will enable us the better to make improvement in the future of our journey.

On assuming the duties of my office, I at once set about to learn more of the duties incumbent to it. It took me some time to arrive at the true situation of affairs owing chiefly to my inexperience in the work. The books before me did not give the correct post office address to the several Deputies, as some divisions are not named after their post office, and I had to wait for more than four weeks before I got any information, but since then I have not spared time nor strength and sacrificed rest and sleep in endeavoring by continued correspondence to inspire a new life and vigor and a spirit of labor in the divisions. I have sent letters to every Division, working and suspended that I had the address of some members. In some instances I have received answer that if some Brother would come, he might organize a division, but they could not do anything themselves.

I have written to the Most Worthy Patriarch Bro. Clapp to help us out by sending Bro. Carswell as organizer, but in reply I was told that Bro. Carswell is employed somewhere else and cannot be had, but he made us an offer to give us a set of supplies and \$10 for each Division organized until 10 Divisions were organized. I immediately sent a letter to each Division enquiring if they have or knew of any one, that would be willing to organize, but they had none. I then looked outside the Order to get one, and for a time the promise seemed to be encouraging, but the local option farce came in the way, after which the campaign for 1888 set in and no work in our line could be done.

My efforts were then concentrated in the direction of holding fast whereunto we had attained, believing that a Division saved is worth saving and I have striven to save the discouraged in the hope that some wave of prosperity might reach them.

My attention was called to Lake Shore Division at Pentwater, where the Good Templars attempted to persuade the Division to become Good Templars and only to the loyalty of the Deputy, R. W. Maxfield and his parents Mrs. and Mr. A. D. Maxfield are we indebted, that this Division did not surrender. It seems that the effort to proselyte has been pushed with a degree of activity reflecting dishonorably upon the Order resorting to it. I need not say that such an attempt to build up by tearing down is not only dishonorable but disgraceful to the officers who resort to it. If this had been the first and only instance I should not have called your attention to it, but it has occurred so frequently not only in Michigan but in other jurisdictions, as to leave the impression that there is a systematic effort made in this direction which should not be passed over in silence.

To the credit of our Order be it said, we have never sought to propagate our Order by such an unprincipled method, and any officer found resorting to such would soon receive the censure of those in authority and his commission revoked. We have ever regarded kindred societies as allies, and extended to them the hand of fellowships.

Our Order is older than any other existing temperance organization, embracing more than the life of a generation and covering about all the periods in the temperance movement. It was instituted in the city of New York September 29th 1842, to supplement, solidify and perpetuate the results of the Washingtonian Reformation. During all these years the Order has been working diligently increasing in numbers and power. Who can calculate the good, which has been accomplished by the Sons of Temperance, the inebriates, who have been snatched from drunkard's graves; and

the young who have been induced to live and labor in sober company?

We have enrolled more than three million persons into our Order. Many of them are dead but their spirit went out to the thousands of homes and entered in to the hearts of the temperance workers of to day, who have become the hale stalwarts and will be found in the front ranks of the army in the great battle we have soon to fight.

The G. Division of Michigan was organized April 6th, 1847. Ypsilanti Division is one of the pioneer divisions, being No. 11, at its organization in the spring of 1846, which number it has changed by reorganizing into 106.

The Order was established only for the male members at first, like all other secret organizations in those days. The admission of ladies to the Order has been agitated for several years, till in 1855 the ladies were admitted as visitors. Just before the war of the rebellion, the Sons were the strongest organizations on this continent, numbering about 250,000 male members and about the same number of lady visitors, and through their instrumentality and influence, constitutional Prohibition was enacted in 14 states in the Union. But when the war of the rebellion broke out and as the temperance people are always loyal, it is estimated, that about three quarters of the male members of our Order rallied at the call of our Country and marched to the front, in many cases taking about every able man from the Division. And at about this time came the I. O. G. T., differing in the fact that females were made full members. The rivalry of this organization has been and is yet sharp and not always fair; while the Sons of Temperance were at the front fighting for the country, their divisions were transformed into Good Templar Lodges. Consequently the Order was run down to about 50,000 members. In 1866 females were admitted to full membership. A grand rally was made and a gradual increase was had, until today the Order numbers about 100,000 in North America. Besides these we have three other National Divisions, one in Great Britain and Ireland, one in Australasia and Victoria and one in South Australia. Their numerical strength is not known to me. Each National Division is independent, except in the Rituals and the Passwords, which are controlled by the National Division of North America, who is the supreme body of the whole Order.

We are at present small in numbers, comparing with former days, but we have enough to claim the promise, and with God on our side we are in the majority. Let us rally yet again under the flag of red, white and blue—Love, Purity and Fidelity.

The Order of the Sons of Temperance is the oldest, and I claim the best organization ever formed to aid the temperance cause, we are absolute unanimous on all questions and measures involved in the temperance reform. Total abstinence for the individual, total prohibition for the state and nation, equal rights and justice for all men and women. We have neither sex nor color, nor form of religious faith, yet we claim to be a christian organization. Every person you meet who has been a working member of the Sons of Temperance will acknowledge freely, that there is no Order that can take its place, and do the work that they have done. While I am a member of a similar organization, this has always held and still holds the highest place. I see in it, what I think are defects, that should be remedied, and I hope will be, as soon as our law-makers in the National Division will see them. Yet its other excellencies exceed the defects.

We have done a grand work in the past, and we may do it yet, and shall win, but success will require sacrifice and work. Let us at once go to work, no more lagging, no more discouraging talk, no more vague reasoning, but work!—that is what is needed—and to work let us go. If our members would put one-tenth part of the energy into our work, that the enemy does to undo it we would report a change in our Order that would astonish the world.

We have it is, alas, too true, to fight against not only the rum interest, and those whom we would save, but also, the potent enemy to the temperance work, the many, many of our christian workers and preachers who, if they do not uphold the use of rum, feel themselves competent to educate and control public sentiment, and instead of joining hands with us in this work taint the atmosphere with opposition. But we must and will keep on for in due time we shall reap.

Sons of Temperance are made by individual application to each man and woman. People may be convinced that temperance is right, that the Order of the Sons of Temperance ought to increase in numbers, that its divisions and influence should cover the land as the waters cover the sea, and yet they would never think of joining it until some good friend asks them to. Then let the work of the hour be, to solicit your friends and acquaintances to become Sons of Temperance. Our gates are open

to, and we invite all classes to join our ranks; the educated and intelligent to be the educators, the uneducated to be educated. Those who have wealth and leisure, and those who toil for their daily bread. We have room for them all, and will furnish each with a work that will not only bless them but will bless the human race around them.

Our Order is now 46 years old and in 1892, only four years more, we will celebrate our Semi-Centennial. Let us hope, that then among the States joining in the temperance jubilee, Michigan will appear one of the best equipped and doing the very best service.

The word "Prohibition" was first spoken in a division room of the Sons of Temperance, faint at first, but it grew louder, till to-day it is heard from shore to shore throughout the whole land. We are the parents of the Prohibition movement, and as such let us do our best, that our Order as an educative and reformatory institution be not crowded into obscurity, and be shorn of its due glory, and that we may be able to celebrate not only the Semi-Centennial of our Order, but also the election of the first Prohibition President in 1892. I have already taken too much of your time with my ideas and so will stop.

Our record is now closed, and the result of our efforts has become a matter of history. Whether we have done our whole duty, our conscience alone can tell us. The enemy is still around us and confronting us on every hand. Much as the Grand Officers may desire to increase the number of our Divisions and do to accomplish this object, it seems of the first importance to preserve and strengthen those we already have, but efforts in this direction must come to naught, unless the divisions will show a disposition to co-operate to sustain its life by personal effort on the part of its members. It has been very difficult to learn the desires and intentions as well as the exact condition of some of the divisions. In some instances, repeated communications brought no reply from those whose duty it was to inform us, and this has prevented action that otherwise could have been done. Although they have neglected or refused to inform me, I have managed to crawl in beyond their curtains and have become fully acquainted with their condition. Promptness in transacting the business of our Order is as necessary, as promptness in any other line of work. The Deputies make no response to my communications, and after long delays send along the returns without giving any excuse for such delay. This should not be, and I hope that some provision will be made at this session to prevent such neglect.

I regret to say, that Capitol, Long Lake and Garfield Divisions did not report and stand suspended. The cause is neglect of members to attend meetings and inability to pay the tax and meet running expenses.

Just as long as members attend to make the meeting interesting, you may see prosperity, but when each member depends upon the other to be present, that they will not be missed, then you may depend upon it your Division will soon cease to work. All depends upon you my Brother and Sister! You are expected to be present you are the one to make up the quorum you must be present. Make a resolution that hereafter, let others do as they may, you will always be present at every meeting of your Division.

I am convinced, that the great obstacle to success is not opposition, but sheer laziness; some of this laziness is, I must admit, among the members in the Order but more of it is among thousands that are not in, because it is easier to stay out. You who are here to day are the active workers, who are willing to drag as well as to drive, to struggle up as well as to go down, who find enjoyment in work as much as in play, and are more intent upon doing good to others than yourself. All hail, Brothers and Sisters, you belong to a small but select band of willing workers, who are not ashamed to be called cranks, and are ready to turn the wheel if thereby you can honor God and lift up the fallen humanity. Remember, that this work is more for the millions yet unborn, and that your efforts now will create an influence, that will act as a power for good, long after you are slumbering in your graves. And now, the years work is before you. How little has been done! How few to do the work! But we should not be disheartened or discouraged. Let us renew our vows to the Order and to the Great Master whom we serve. Let us go forth from here renewed for the fight in a spirit of firm reliance and trust in our Great Leader. Let us unfurl our banners anew, and "shoulder to shoulder, with steady step and true" press forward to the conflict. Thus we may expect to accomplish something.

I have made a very poor Grand Scribe. I don't want any of you to say that about me, and I shall never forgive you if you do. But I am compelled to say it myself. Surrounded by circumstances and obstacles over which I had no control, I was not

able to overcome them. Yet in reviewing my term of office, I feel, that I can confidently say, that no voluntary act of mine has been performed, that was not accompanied with a deep conviction, that it was for the best interest of this Grand Division, and while I have not been able to do all that I would have desired, I shall lay aside the duties of the office with the consciousness, that I have done all within my power.

Brothers and Sisters, with this session my duties as your Grand Scribe cease. The months have quickly flown, and while they have been months of labor and care for the interest of our noble Order, yet they will be remembered as among the brightest and most beautiful pictures of my life.

Owing to the inability of the Grand Worthy Patriarch to attend to his official duties, I was compelled to act in place of the Grand Worthy Patriarch. Questions of law were submitted to me, which I have considered very carefully before answering:

1. Can the W. P. appoint any member in the Division to act as P. W. P., there being other P. W. P.s present?

My answer was: No! The office of the P. W. P. is a post of honor: and shall be occupied by the Junior P. W. P. present, not otherwise in subordinate office provided however that if there is no P. W. P. present the W. P. may appoint any member, who is over 21 years of age.

2. Can the retiring W. P. be elected to some other office.

My answer was: No! The W. P. if not re-elected becomes the constituted acting P. W. P. and shall occupy that position only when present.

3. If the senior P. W. P. is a chaplain, can he leave his office to take the chair in the absence of the W. P. and W. A. there being other P. W. P.s present.

My answer was: No! In the absence of the W. P. and W. A. the senior P. W. P. not in office, should preside, but if there is no other P. W. P. present, then he may leave his office regardless what office in the Division he may hold and act as W. P.

4. Can a Division hold a legal meeting and the Charter not being present?

Yes! But this depends on circumstances. If a Division has no regular place to hold meetings, for safety sake, the W. P. or the Deputy may keep the Charter at home and hold meetings at different places without it, but if a division abandon the Charter, that is quit working and leave it in the Division room not caring what will become of it, and then meet again at a private house to dispose of the Division property, such meeting is not legal. The Division has no right to dispose any of the property after they had quit working or voted to do so.

5. Can a D. G. W. P. call a meeting to elect officers, the W. P. not willing to do so?

Answer: The election of officers may be postponed by leave of the Deputy, and he should give his consent if in his judgment it will be beneficial to the Division but if in his judgment it should prove to be detrimental he should insist that the officers are elected. And if the W. P. refuses to do so, aiming to break down the Division, then the Deputy may and should call a meeting at a regular evening, and when a quorum (not less than five members) is present, elect and install the officers. Such Division is considered as reorganized and the W. P. so ousted will not become a P. W. P. I have answered some more questions, but I do not consider them of any importance to be mentioned here. As to recommendation I must say, that every year some recommendations are made and acted upon, yet material change is visible.

I would recommend: 1. That the commission of the D. G. W. P. shall remain in force until revoked and another Deputy appointed regardless by what G. W. P. such commission was issued.

2. That the election of Division Deputies be not, as heretofore left to the subordinate Divisions, but appointed as the Bye Laws of this G. D. require. In my opinion, members that have not enough interest in the G. D. to attend its sessions, will have not enough interest to be its agents. They should be chosen from among the representatives attending the session, but provided, that by the recommendation of the G. S. or G. W. P. those Deputies who have proven themselves faithful shall not be removed, even if not present at G. D. sessions, but those who neglect to report or answer communications sent them, should be removed at any time.

3. I would also recommend, that the greatest care should be used in the Divisions in selecting their officers! One reason, why so many Divisions mourn their weakness and lack of success may be, because they have neglected to put in office members that are able to conduct the work of the Division and especially the ceremonies of initiation in such manner as to impress new members with their importance and beauty. Individuals with a nice sense of propriety, who are well acquainted with the way such services are conducted in other societies! if they witness our work done in a heedless

and indifferent manner, are not favorably impressed, are not interested, but on the contrary are disappointed and cease attendance at the meetings and are seen no more in the Division. Many who are chosen, are unfitted to discharge the duties of such offices as, W. P. R. S., F. S., and Conductor, for it is upon these officers that Division depend largely for success. Representatives to the Grand Division ought to use their influence, that partiality, and the cut and dried canvass before hand be avoided, as through these, offices are filled by parties who will not attend, and have to be filled nightly by those rejected. Also that great diligence is used in securing good Scribes and Conductors, and when found keep such in office as long as possible.

I have received several communications, which I will present to you at the proper time as this report is too long already.

I am not able to give you the exact number of members, as the quarter has just closed, and the returns are not in yet.

The amount of receipts received, \$138.49; Amount due from Subordinate Divisions \$3.46; Total receipts, \$141.95; Total disbursement \$121.96; leaving a balance of \$19.99; Amount due not paid, \$3.46; leaving amount on hand \$16.53. My books lay before you and I hope you will find them correct.

Submitted in Love, Purity, and Fidelity,  
JOSEPH FALK,  
Grand Scribe.

## Silver Stream Division, No. 330.

GRAND DIVISION OF N. B.

Bro. Wm. Tait, Deputy of Silver Stream Division, Black Brook informs us that his Division was organized Feb. 19th, 1887 with 38 charter members. The number of names now enrolled is 63. They meet on Wednesday of each week. Have not missed any session during the last two quarters. No public meetings have been held. They were visited in Oct. 1887 by Bro. C. W. Anslow. No members have been suspended this year for non-payment of dues. The amount of funds on hand last quarter was \$22.86. The hall in which the sessions are held is owned by the Division. There are three Divisions within ten miles of "Silver Stream". No fraternal visits have been made this year.

## Louison, Division No. 297.

GRAND DIVISION OF N. B.

Bro. D. Stewart, Deputy of Louison Division writes us the following— This Division was organized Mar. 17th, 1886 with 33 charter members. Their sessions are held on Friday of each week. The number of names now enrolled is 81. They were visited by the Grand Scribe in April. No public meetings have been held this year. The prospects for the winter are good. None have been suspended for non-payment of dues this year. They have decreased slightly in membership on account of exodus. The amount of funds on hand last quarter was \$20. The property owned by "Louison" is valued at \$600. The hall was built by British Templars many of whom are now S. of T. There are no Divisions within ten miles of "Louison".

## Nictaux Division, No. 357.

GRAND DIVISION OF N. S.

Bro. J. E. Oakes, Deputy of Nictaux Division, writes the following: This Division was organized Dec. 17th, 1873 with 34 charter members. The number of members now enrolled is 51, 35 of whom are males. They meet on Monday of each week. "Nictaux" was visited by N. J. Gates, G. W. A., and Thos. Hutchings, P. G. W. P. in July. The Division is not in a very prosperous condition, owing to some of the members removing to other places, and others losing interest in the work. Bro. Oakes trusts that the interest may be revived during the winter.

The Canada Temperance Act has been enforced in the County and "Nictaux" raised a small fund to help enforce the law. No members have been suspended for non-payment of dues.

A trading establishment in the Congo recently sent an order to England for a consignment of rum. And very appropriately it was added in a postscript: Send more handcuffs.

According to Internal Revenue Commissioner Miller, the people of these United States consumed during the past year over seventy millions of gallons of whisky and 24,980,216 barrels of beer.