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Editor and Proprietor.

"O WHERE IS MY BOY?"

Oh, where is my boy? whose sweet dimpled face,
I have pressed to my own with a mother's embrace:
Whose heart grew so true as the years glided by,
While I trembled for him with the rum-shop so high.
Where is he to-night? Do you ask me where?
Oh, friends he is sleeping in a drunkard's grave there,
And I need not tell you that my bleeding heart broke,
With the cry that rang out with the last words he spoke.
There was once a time when fetters were worn,
When from the slave mother her children were torn:
And yet she might hope to meet them once more
If they were but faithful on Canaan's bright shore;
But what is my hope for my poor boy, gone down
To the grave of a drunkard? Hath heaven a crown?
And what shall I do, when in death's billows tossed,
I know that my boy is eternally lost?
I ask not for help; it is too late for me;
One moment of gladness I never can see;
To be saved from this curse, with its withering blight,
Where are the helpers? Oh, who will come
And join this army to protect the home?
What brave noble hearts will go to the polls,
And vote with their conscience, to rescue these souls?

—Selected.

GRAND DIVISION OF ONTARIO.

GRAND SCRIBE'S REPORT.

G. W. P., OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.—

Under the guidance and with the support of our Heavenly Father, we meet to-day in this fair city to review the work of the past, to exchange kind fraternal words of greeting, sympathy and cheer, to grasp each other's hands and take faithful counsel, in the sacred bonds of Love, Purity, and Fidelity, and to devise ways and means to carry on still more effectually the grand work of propagating our noble Order, extending its influence and usefulness, and disseminating the glorious truths and principles upon which it is founded.

Since we last met in Annual Session the Order has had the usual record of ups and downs, encouragements and discouragements, successes and failures, expected friends delinquent in duty, excellent service from unexpected quarters, etc., etc. There also has been the ever faithful, true, reliant, noble, upon whom this Order can always depend through adversity and prosperity, through evil and through good report. On the whole the favorable have exceeded the unfavorable features, and it is with satisfaction that I am able to give an encouraging report of progress during the past year. Your Executive Committee, with limited funds at its disposal, has industriously, vigorously, unremittingly and persistently labored to preserve in usefulness and membership the integrity of the Order, to clear away the mists and remove the obstacles that had gathered—obstructing progress; to extend and build up so far as means would permit, to improve the financial standing of this Grand Division, and, if possible, to present at this session a membership, if not increased, yet compact and reliable, an Order undivided by discord or dissension, a report of the past encouraging and prospects for the future most hopeful. All this has not been so fully accomplished as we desired, but we are grateful for the measure of success that has attended these labors, and for the encouraging reports of progress and prospects that we can now present. It is my firm conviction, after careful study, close observation, and a faithful review of the whole situation, that the prospects for the future are of the most hopeful character, that, in fact, if we, as a Grand Division and as an Order, are prepared to enter vigorously, intelligently and persistently into the work of propagating our Order in a manner commensurate with the field opening up to us, that the time is not very far distant when we may again attain the honored distinction, once held, of being the "Banner" Grand Division. I am also as fully convinced that if we

allow the opportunities now being presented to pass unimproved that it may be years before, if indeed ever, they will appear again. I do, at this juncture, most urgently advise that a conservative and preservative policy be adopted. To carry such a policy into effect will require money, men, work, loyalty, persistency, and it may be some sacrifice, but who worthy to claim the noble and time-honored distinction, "I am a Son of Temperance," will not make its sacred truths and principles, the dissemination and practice of which must ever mean the salvation of a part of, and the benefit of the whole community. Brethren, sisters, members, I firmly believe that a grand, influential, prosperous and useful future awaits us, if we will have it so. The harvest is ready. Shall we take our rightful places as foremost amongst the reapers? May wise counsels prevail!

For the year ending 1885, 7,696 members were returned to the National Division, 6,948 being for December quarter, and 648 based upon September returns. Of this number but 5,469 have at this date paid *per capita* tax for December quarter of that year, that is 2227 of those required to be returned to the National Division for 1885 have not yet paid *per capita* tax for December quarter of that year, and of these 1,741 paid no tax for the September quarter.

For the year ending 1886 there were returned to the N. D. 5,737 members from the December returns and 651 upon the basis of September returns, a total of 6,388. Of these 5,657 paid tax for December quarter, and 527 for September quarter; or, of those required to be returned to the N. D., 1,031 did not pay tax for December quarter of that year, and of these 424 did not pay tax for the September quarter; an apparent decrease on the one hand of 1,008, but on the other hand an apparent increase of 188. I then thought that we might safely count these 5,657 upon whom tax had been paid for December quarter, but I have since learned that the D. G. W. Ps in several divisions then already dormant, merely paid the arrears of *per capita* tax, as a matter of honor, and under the heavy pressure that your Grand Scribe, in the discharge of his duty, and by your authority, brought to bear on all delinquents. Such cases included at least nine Divisions, with 246 members, which, in order to reach our actual membership, should be taken from the 5,657. This would leave 5,411 as probably about the correct membership in good standing at the end of 1886, a decrease of 58 members. The returns which should have been sent to the M. W. Scribe in March were held back until May, and the interim fully occupied in persistently collecting arrears.

For the year ending December, 1887, there were returned to the N. D. 5,484 members from December returns, and 550 based upon September returns, a total of 6,034. Of this number the whole 5,484 paid December tax, and so, even omitting these few counted from September that afterwards paid December tax also, we have a real gain of 73 members instead of an apparent loss of 653. As I have stated, present indications are that our actual standing numerically at the close of 1888 will be at least as good as in preceding years. Careful study of the experience of past years shows that the criterion of our actual numerical strength is to be found in the paying membership returned in December quarter. March returns usually exceed December, while those of June and September ordinarily fall below them. It is upon our actual and not upon our nominal strength that we must rely for active aggressive work.

The returns read: "Withdrawn 828," or about 15½ per cent, of our actual membership at the beginning of the year. This is a serious loss. If the beauties of our ritual the fraternity of our Order, its many advantages, social, moral, business, and educa-

tional, were diligently taught and practised by all our Divisions, I think this outflow would be largely diminished. Still we must bear in mind that this is the honorable exit from the Order, and also that the more active and successful we are in gathering in the young the greater will be the number of the "withdrawn," especially from amongst our lady members, who, upon entering into marriage relations are frequently called upon to leave the Division and find a home in a locality where no Division exists.

"Number in Divisions whose charters have been surrendered, 904." Here is a serious leakage. Many of these were doubtless loyal, true, earnest members, who had fought and struggled hard to maintain their Divisions, but wearied of fighting an uphill battle, they lost courage and ceased to labor. I believe that the class could be largely reduced if we had in operation some scheme by which weak Divisions would be visited and encouraged. Many noble members are annually lost to the Order through Divisions becoming defunct. If at this session some system is devised or endorsed that will prove an effectual remedy, then our deliberations shall not be in vain.

"Suspended 1037," most of them for non-payment of dues. Nearly 20 per cent, of our actual membership disappears from this cause. This is a serious loss numerically, and reflects no credit on those suspended. The Division has here a grand field for moral training. A large number of suspensions must indicate one or more of three things, viz, that members who knowingly permit themselves to be suspended for non-payment of dues have but a faint conception of honesty, or an utter disregard for it; that many financial scribes are, or have been, incompetent, neglectful, or unwilling to discharge the sacred, honorable; yet responsible duties of that office; that Divisions do not always teach as clearly and decisively as they ought, the righteousness and grandeur of our cardinal principle Fidelity, and the necessity for its application in every relation in life. The wilful and avoidable non-payment of dues is equally as dishonorable and wrong as any other omission to pay an honest debt. If Divisions will faithfully inculcate this truth at all times this financial and numerical advantage to the Division and the Order, and with a decided moral advantage to the members. The Financial Scribe should properly notify each member in arrears, every quarter. This duty faithfully performed would, to a great extent, remedy the evil and annually save hundreds of members to the Order. The office of financial scribe is a most responsible one. Unperformed duty is not a kindness but a wrong to the member in arrears, and incompetency or unfaithfulness of that officer, if persisted in, will probably bring disaster to the Division.

THE "CREDIT SYSTEM."

I am pleased to report the almost entire abolition of the mischievous system as applied to our work. This result is of great advantage to both Subordinate Divisions and Grand Divisions. It is but seldom that a Division now makes returns without sending the *per capita* tax therewith, and a glance at the financial statement appended to this report will show that supplies purchased by Divisions since last session, a comparatively small amount remains unpaid. To reach even the point attained has caused a vast amount of correspondence and explanation, but I felt that the usefulness, efficiency, and standing of the Order were to a great extent involved in the issue, and I determined, if possible, to eradicate this system. Reduced now to small proportions, I hope soon to see it utterly discarded.

OLD ACCOUNTS.

I have repeatedly and persistently endeavored to collect all old arrears. In addition to \$108.29, reported in my last statement, a further sum of \$75.29 has been collected,

making a total of \$183.08 from old accounts. About \$25.00 more are promised. Most Divisions have paid off the accounts due, others are rapidly doing so. One Division, formerly in the habit of sending returns without *per capita* tax, though having done nothing towards removing the old account, has for some time paid *per capita* regularly. Only one Division has ignored every appeal made. I should not say ignored, as it has made promises at times, promises which remain unfulfilled. I have not sent the password to that Division for a long time, yet I am told that the Division is in operation. I refer to Bever Division, No. 92. Its present indebtedness is \$23.78 and seven quarters *per capita* tax, for which quarters no returns have been made. According to your instructions the password has been withheld from all Divisions that had not made returns and paid *per capita* tax for the previous quarter, and all Divisions thirty days in arrears for returns and *per capita* tax have been duly notified of the delinquencies each quarter. The result has been beneficial, yet a few Divisions or their Deputies are still tardy in attending to these duties.

(Continued next issue.)

AMONG OUR EXCHANGES.

ONE WAY.—The Indianapolis saloonists have determined to defy the Sunday law. They place two watchers at their doors to keep out the police. The police are no doubt anxious to be kept out. It is time for the Mayor to issue a proclamation to the people commanding them to carry stuffed clubs to protect the policemen from the saloonists and their watchers. What is the use in having police if the people don't protect them?

A WHISKEY BONFIRE.—A novelty in this county was the destruction, under the C. T. Act, of a considerable quantity of liquor on Christmas eve. David Foster, of Oxford, had been tried here before Justice Chapman and Hicks, on three several informations—one by C. R. Casey, for selling liquor; one by the same for keeping it and exposing it for sale, and another by C. Lowther for selling. Accused was convicted for each offence, and fined \$50 for each. He is now serving three months in jail for the first offence. Under orders from the Justices, Constable Perches, of Amherst, and Lowther, of Oxford, took the liquors into Victoria Square on Monday evening, and set fire to them. They included a cask of rum, 5 gal. jug of brandy, and two cases containing flasks of various liquors. Doubtless many onlookers who only sniffed the smoke considered this a great waste of the exhilarating fluids, when they could have been made instrumental in promoting a number of Christmas rows and crimes against society.—*Amherst Gazette.*

THE DIFFERENCE.—The difference between a whole holiday, with all tavern doors open and liquor bars in full flow, and a Sunday holiday with shut-up saloons, and the whiskey and beer taps cut off, was fully illustrated Christmas. There has not been so much reeling drunkenness on Philadelphia streets for half a year, nor half so much rowdiness or loud profanity. This was of course, but little visible on Chestnut street on in the quiet residence districts, but there was an over abundance of it in many other localities. There was a great deal of "Personal Liberty," of a kind that no decent man or woman could take pride in, and of a character that is causing some conservative people to look favorably towards prohibition. *Philadelphia Ledger.*

THE BAR AT SEA.—"The receipts of the bar on a first-class foreign steamer out of this port for Europe will amount, it is said, to three or four thousand dollars every trip. This will give some idea of the amount of drinking done in the week the ship

is at sea by the passengers. There is too much of a disposition to make the voyage a spree, if not a drunken debauch." It adds: "Whether it is the enforced idleness of the trip; or the 'out-for-a-holiday feeling,' it is hard to say, but there is no doubt about it that drinking to excess is the one dissipation at sea that needs restraint. Gambling is bad enough, but the spectacle of a majority of the men on board more or less full, is fast becoming a nuisance to quiet people who loathe drunkenness and cannot escape the sight of it at sea." The alcoholic indulgence on ship-board, as shared sometimes also by the officers of the steamers, as well as the bibulous passengers, is not only a nuisance, but a grave peril. It ought not to be.—*Maine Journal.*

THE RESULT OF DRINKING.—"Frequent drinking makes a glib tongue, and matters that might be regarded as State secrets outside the pale of the bar-room are there discussed with a shocking lack of reserve. The funny part of it is that the bartender is taken seriously into the discussion, and his opinions are treated as of great respect and authority by persons who, when sober, have no companionship with the mixer of drinks. Think of a man taking his business affairs, his family affairs, his love affairs, to be submitted to the judgment of a bartender, and you have in mind what actually happens very, very often. Place a white-aproned man behind a whisky-bar, and he becomes, in many instances, the leader in thought and expression of those who exchange money for drinks over two feet of walnut board that separates them. And this explains, in a measure, the vast influence of saloons in politics."—*The St. Louis Globe.*

WILL YOU HELP.—If we enquire into the cause that fills our charitable Homes and Institutions, we find that strong drink is at the bottom of nearly every case. Now if we persuade our own dear sisters to help not only to remedy the evil effects produced by intemperance but to remove the cause also, we should all work more intelligently and with a nearer prospect of success. A writer on this subject says: "Among all the obstacles in the way none are more astonishing than women who will not help. I wish we had the power to make every mother who is opposed to us, live between the saloons till she is converted, and in the meantime her children should be in charge of the Humane Society. The women could end the whole liquor business inside of a year if they would all work as some are doing." There is no reason why the membership in each union should not be doubled during the year and this would be the case if more women could or would see this matter in its true light, but whether becoming members of the union or not, we do expect this year from the Christian women of Canada a greater interest in the cause which we advocate and a greater influence exerted along the preventive line of this evil.—*Women's Journal.*

R. Rush Brawley was formerly a major of volunteers, an acting assistant paymaster in the navy and a provost marshal of Washington, D. C. December 8, he was picked up dying on the Bowery, New York city, a drunken tramp.

An inebriated fellow was drowned in a street gutter at Stockton, Cal. He fell to the sidewalk, and then rolled off into the gutter, which contained about four inches of water. He was found a few moments later, but life was extinct.

A Kansas man has been in the habit of visiting an obliging druggist, and ordering drinks by wink. An enterprising tintype taker came along and photographed him in the act of taking a bowl. Druggist and customer are both in jail.