



HARBOR GRACE, FEBRUARY 14, 1872.

TEMPERANCE SOIREE.

ACCORDING to previous announcement, a Soiree, under the auspices of the Harbor Grace Division of the Sons of Temperance, was held at the British Hall on Wednesday evening last. The interior of the building was very tastefully decorated with flags and evergreens, and at the extreme end a beautiful motto was suspended bearing the inscription in rustic letters, "Welcome friends of Temperance." The tables, which occupied the greater part of the Hall, actually groaned under the weight of the good things provided by the ladies; and here we would remark that never have we seen, on such an occasion, a more liberal supply of everything calculated to appease the appetite and gratify the most fastidious taste.

At 7 o'clock every available space was occupied, the ability of the Committee to provide seats became exhausted, the vestibule crowded, "and still they came!" This circumstance compelled the Committee to adopt the only expedient that could be resorted to to prevent those already seated from being inconvenienced, that of closing the doors, and excluding numbers the pleasure of entrance. A blessing was then invoked by the Rev. C. Ladner, and Tea partaken of to the entire satisfaction of all. An hour and a half having been occupied in this agreeable exercise, John Bemister, Esq., very graciously complied with the request of the Deputy Grand Worthy Patriarch to act as chairman, and called the meeting to order. In doing so, he, in his usual happy manner, made some very appropriate remarks, urging upon all the necessity of denouncing the evils of intemperance and manifesting greater interest in the cause of total abstinence. He alluded to the fact that among the advocates of temperance may be found many of the most talented men of the day, and he (Mr. B.) like Professor Darwin, thought a (DRUNKEN) man strongly resembled an ape.

Mr. Thos. Rogers then read a very humorous story, entitled, "Thaddy Delaney on the Census," to the infinite amusement of all present.

The Rev. Mr. Ladner followed in an eloquent and convincing address, forcibly illustrating the bestial degradation to which men bring themselves by coming under the dominion of the detestable habit of intemperance, and adduced some important statistics showing the amount of money expended annually by the people of the British Islands for alcoholic stimulants, and affectionately appealed to his hearers to entirely discountenance the use of ardent spirits.

He was followed by Mr. T. J. Keith, who made a few very reasonable observations. He strongly deprecated the evil practice of "grog-drinking," considered the moderate drinker an object of pity, and saw only one step between him and the drunkard.

The Deputy Grand Worthy Patriarch, D. Rogers, Esq., now came forward, and in an impressive manner appealed to all who were in the habit of drinking to denounce the evil practice at once. He considered it ruinous to body and soul, and calculated to demoralize and debase the best society.

Master Eugene Parsons then recited a pathetic little poem, entitled, "Casablanca," and was followed by Mr. J. D. Withycombe in a pithy and appropriate address, bringing forward many passages of scripture condemnatory of the pernicious habit of intoxication.

Here the juveniles again appeared, when "The Army and the Navy,"—a dialogue—was remarkably well rendered by Masters W. Thompson and W. Munn—in character; after which Master Russell sang the fine old song of "Bingen on the Rhine."

A short address having been delivered by Mr. W. Withycombe, a song was very well rendered by Mr. T. Macey, followed by the reading of one of "Mrs. Caudle's Curtin Lectures," by Mr. James Munn.

Now for the most amusing feature of the evening. This was presented by Mr. T. J. Keith, who appeared in character and recited the very characteristic lines known as "The Brandy Bottle!" Mr. K. forcibly suggested to the spectators the wretched condition of the drunkard. His nose was "well studded over with carbuncles of the claret complexion—the red of his cheeks closely resembling the hue of that wine"—and his clothing bore all the impress of a recent roll in the gutter. The piece was acted well and elicited great applause.

This concluded the programme, when the chairman closed the evening's entertainment by announcing that grand old anthem so dear to every British heart, "God save the Queen;" and as the first note fell from his lips and the audience rose and joined in the singing, we could scarcely restrain the ardour of our patriotism, and cast our eyes with exultation to the platform above which

hung in all its brilliancy "the flag that has braved for a thousand years the battle and the breeze!"

The affair was the most successful of the kind ever held in Harbor Grace, and we doubt not will greatly redound to the advancement of the temperance cause in this district.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[TO THE EDITORS OF THE STAR.]

Sirs,
Your correspondent "Special Bobby" in last issue—who by the way might with propriety, have signed "Confounded Booby"—in reference to my epistle stating the fact, that only two policemen are on duty on the streets, makes some remarkable statements. The first is, "that the police know their duty." Who said they did not? You, and all are well aware that under our mutual friend F. the police force has always been well trained, and consequently in a state of efficiency. The second statement is; "they have instruction from head-quarters." No doubt they have, and that is just what I insinuated, and being so only makes head-quarters accountable for one more blunder. The third and last statement is either a mistake or a fabrication. It is, "When the services of the police are required, they will be ready to render such." Now the truth is, the men of duty reside in some instances a considerable distance from town, and in case of need they were wanted, would be too late in getting forward to do any good, not to say anything of the trouble of having to send for them. It is with us just now, a case of invisible blue; when a constable is wanted, he is nowhere to be seen. Now, during the months that the bulk of our people are absent, the two about system might work very well, but I maintain that a time, like the present, when crowds are about, the full force ought to be on duty. Prevention is better than cure!

ALABASTER.

Feb. 13.

The Soiree.

[BY AULD REEKIE.]

I had the infinite pleasure of being present at the Soiree on the evening of Wednesday, and had the satisfaction of finding myself in a hungry condition, consequently able to do ample justice to the many good things presented for the temptation of the palate.

What a motley crowd was present. Faces long and sincere, faces round and laughing, faces displaying the desperation of hunger, faces with mouths shut, and faces with mouths open wide enough to swallow a teapot without breaking it.

Temperance is a great cause; tea a great temperance beverage, and this affair being under temperance auspices, we went with a determination to give tea a fair and unbiased trial. Having taken sixteen cups I considered it a fair share. I noticed some, however, indulge to excess, but the reason for that may be assigned to the fact, that having gone with crushed sugar in their pockets, something else was made of it. Some appetites were very good, the generality of these being satisfied by material sent to the stomach, via Red Lane, Throat Circus. Other appetites lay in the region of the pockets; these partook largely and had a wonderfully smart digestion. I fancy that sort swallowed spoons too, but cannot be sure, it is worth while enquiring into. But the most insipid appetite ever I saw was that of a little girl who could on no consideration be persuaded to participate in the fun of gormandizing, until her parental guardian pushed her head into the tea cup, which had the effect of bringing her round. The speeches were wondrous; I wonder what they spoke about. The songs were sung excellently but I could not make them out; the only music I heard the whole evening was by an old fellow who drunk his tea ex the saucer with a sweet sound similar to that produced by a pig when he has both mouth and nose inserted in a tub of liquid matter. I admired the pretty collars worn by the "Sons of Temperance." A young man asked to have one, but he was told he could not get one at that time. He got vexed, and said if he did not get a collar, he would have a muffler to go home with. Now a muffler is a mixture of wine and brandy in equal proportions, diluted with hot water, and highly sweetened. So much for the Soiree.

By Authority.

His Excellency the Governor has directed the publication of the following Notice, agreed to by the Government, viz.:

"That all Passenger Vessels be placed in Quarantine, and inspected by one of the Health Officers."

Secretary's Office, 8th February, 1872.—Gazette.

Passengers.

Per *Humboldt* for New York—Miss McJ Murdo, Messrs. Bates, Wendall, M. Thorburn and Quntoua.

Christ. To him let our bodies be dedicated, that they may be fit dwellings for the indwelling of the Holy Ghost. To him may our labors be dedicated, that their fruit may tend to the glory of His great name, and to the advancement of His Kingdom.

Then the Congregation were requested to kneel while Mr. Currie, read the dedicatory Prayer, after which the Choir sang a Hymn. The Benediction was pronounced and the congregation dispersed either to their respective homes or to enjoy the unlimited hospitality of the good people of Marysville.

In the afternoon Rev. Mr. McKeown, and in the evening the Rev. Mr. Gaetz preached to crowded congregations. The sermons in each instance were replete with eloquence and fervor, and were altogether appropriate to the occasion.

REMARKABLE HISTORY OF A HORSE.—A singular story of a horse, which passed safely through the war and Commune, was related in a suit just decided before the Civil Tribunal of the Seine. The mare was first called Blutte, and belonged to a dealer named Parcelier; she was of noble race, and had gained prizes at agricultural shows. When Paris was invested, and meat became scarce, she was requisitioned, and was destined for the slaughter-house. Fortunately, M. de Dyanne, an officer of the National Guard, remarked her, and saved her from that ignominious fate by taking her as a charger. She was then renamed Patrie, and carried her master in his service. During the confusion that reigned at that moment of the armistice she was stolen by her groom, but was recovered by her owner. The Commune next arrived, and the requisitions and acts of violence recommenced; the master of Patrie was sought after as a hostage, and was obliged to quit Paris in haste, leaving her concealed in a room on the ground floor of a house, with her feet tied up in cloths, so that the noise she made should not betray her hiding-place. M. de Dyanne had not, however, forgotten his faithful animal; his wife came into Paris, and by means of a passport for a horse, obtained through the Turkish Embassy, Patrie was saved for the third time. A year later, M. Parcelier, her first owner came forward and claimed her as his property. The other refused to give her up, showing that he had purchased her for 1150f. when she was condemned in December, 1870, although the execution of the contract had been postponed to the end of the war, and was made conditional on the mare surviving; he besides proved to the Court that but for him Patrie would long ago have ceased to exist, as he had saved her from the slaughtermen, thieves, and the Commune. The Court now decided that she should remain the property of her benefactor on his paying the 1150f. to M. Parcelier.

House of Assembly.

OFFICIAL REPORTS.

TUESDAY, Feb. 6.

Mr. Tessier, in rising to move that a Select committee be appointed for the purpose of preparing a draft of an address in reply to the gracious Speech with which His Excellency had been pleased to open the present Session, would observe that it must be to other hon. members, as it was to him, a source of much gratification, that the condition of His Excellency's health was so satisfactory as to admit of his presence here to-day. His Excellency, in the opening part of his speech, had expressed his regret that the prosecution of the fisheries of 1872 had not been attended with results equally favorable with those of 1871. Now, however, such might have been the case with regard to some portions of our coast; he was not of opinion that the results of the fishery generally would justify such an impression, as he was aware that, in some places, those engaged therein had been fairly remunerated for their exertions; the fishery being of such a character as to meet the expenditure necessarily incurred in its prosecution, and leaving a fair margin of profit. But where failure had occurred, he did not apprehend any serious results, as the fishermen in those localities had been afforded a sufficiency of employment upon roads and other public works. It should be a source of gratification to know that the condition of the public revenue of the past year was satisfactory, and so far in excess of that of 1871. This, he (Mr. T.) considered as an unmistakable proof of the general prosperity of the country. In fact he considered the satisfactory results attendant upon the collection of the revenue during the past three years as a matter for much public congratulation. The partial failure of the seal fishery during the past year was certainly a subject of much regret. The expenditure incurred in its prosecution was considerable, and it required a large amount of success to render it profitable, and it was to be hoped that the results of the coming voyage would be of a character sufficient to meet the deficiency of the past. He (Mr. T.) considered the seal fishery of this Colony as of the utmost importance to its welfare, one third of the population being engaged during a portion of the year in that pursuit. With reference to the mail contract with the Quebec and Gulf Ports Company, it was to be regretted that the company had failed to fulfil its terms, and that in consequence the Government did not feel themselves justified in continuing it. This was more particularly to be regretted, from the fact that the trade between this Colony and the neighboring Provinces would be very much increased by means of the Company's steamers, had their performance of the terms of the contract been of such a character as to justify its continuance. The satisfactory conclusion of the contract with the owners of the Allan line, for fortnightly steam communication during nine months of the year, between this Port, Great Britain, and Nova

Scotia, and monthly between this Port and Halifax during the winter season, must be a source of great gratification, not alone to the Commercial portion of the community, but also to the public generally. In fact he (Mr. T.) considered this contract as reflecting great credit upon the present Government. With reference to coastal steam, he understood that it was contemplated by the Government to render the service on the Southern coast more efficient during the coming season, and he hoped that they would be in such a position as to give increased facilities to the trade on that coast, which was increasing, and which increase he considered was to be attributed in a great measure to the Steam Communication now established. The trade between this Colony and the United States, was also one of great importance, and he trusted that when the documents in connection with the Treaty of Washington came before the House, they would meet with that due consideration which their importance demanded, and that in legislating the same, due regard would be had to the interests of this Colony so as to secure the admission of our export into the United States upon terms as favorable as those of that country into Newfoundland. It was satisfactory to learn that the correspondence relating to our French Shore rights had been favourably received by the Imperial Government. When the estimate would be laid before the house, he (Mr. T.) had no doubt that hon. members would readily concur in voting the necessary supplies. With reference to the opening up of main lines of roads, he would observe that he considered such as calculated to give a great impetus to agriculture, and he (Mr. T.) trusted that in proposing the grants for this service for 1873, the Government would evince a liberality equal to that of the past year. He was glad to hear that the proclamation issued during the past season by His Excellency the Governor, prohibiting the cutting of wood on our Western Coast, had the desired effect of preventing the further deprivations by people from the neighbouring provinces as the timber on that part of our coast, was large and extremely valuable to our own people. He (Mr. T.) was glad to hear that the number of licences to search for minerals, issued during 1872, was much in excess of any previous year. This he (Mr. T.) considered was, in a great measure, due to the wise and judicious measure for the abolition of Royalties passed during last Session. It would doubtless be a subject of much gratification, more particularly to those interested in the trade of this Colony, to learn that the Fog Whistle to be erected at Cape Race, had arrived; and he hoped that it might soon be placed in such a position as to be of the greatest advantage to our shipping. The Government had, during the past year, been engaged in the erection of several important Light Houses, and other valuable public works; and he hoped that during the coming season they would be enabled, satisfactorily, to complete such as were unfinished. With reference to the expenditure of the special grants for public improvements in the several districts, he had no doubt that the statement in the Speech of His Excellency would be gratifying to hon. members. And he (Mr. T.) further could say, that so far as he had knowledge of the expenditure of the money, very important improvements had been effected, and he still further hoped that the Government would be prepared to appropriate a similar amount for the same purpose during the present session. The terms in which His Excellency had been pleased to refer to the orderly conduct of the people of this colony during the past year, were indeed highly commendatory, and went far to show the respect for law and authority which generally prevailed throughout the colony, and to prove its inhabitants to be a peaceable, orderly people, which statement of His Excellency was still further supported by the police reports, as published in the columns of the local press. The despatches from the Secretary of State, he (Mr. T.) had no doubt would receive that serious consideration which the importance of the matters referred to in those several documents demanded. In concluding his observations, he would remark that it was a matter of much congratulation that we had been so particularly fortunate as to have collected such a large amount of revenue during the past three years. Those large revenues had been the means of effecting a large amount of public improvements, and it was to be hoped that in the future, large revenues would be as well expended. The people of Newfoundland had still further the pleasure to know, that only for the efforts of the party now in power they would not have the gratification of devoting their own revenues to their own local improvements. He had much pleasure in moving that a Committee be appointed to prepare the draft of an address in reply to the gracious speech with which His Excellency the Governor had been pleased to open the present session of the Legislature.

The absence of any mention of the Northern service was, no doubt, due to the fact of the present arrangements being in all respects satisfactory, and that the existing contract was to be for five years. The reduction in the rates of foreign postage is a matter of congratulation, and will prove satisfactory alike to the mercantile and humbler to classes. Rapid and cheap communication was now regarded as a necessity in every community, the want of it is a drawback and an indication of being behind the spirit of the age. He (Mr. F.) trusted that the revenue would not suffer by the reduction. With regard to the Washington Treaty, he (Mr. F.) was not sufficiently conversant with the commerce of the Colony to venture an opinion. He had however, observed that a good deal of the opposition which at one time was manifested towards it, in some portions of the Dominion, had recently given way, and its provisions were now being regarded with much greater favour. He (Mr. F.) considered that its advantages to Newfoundland would be greater than to the other Provinces, inasmuch as the privileges accorded to the American fishermen would probably be availed of only in the waters of the Provinces nearest to their own country, and not to the same extent in Newfoundland waters. He (Mr. F.) had no doubt that when the subject would come before the House, hon. members conversant with the trade of the colony, would bestow upon it the full measure of the superior knowledge and careful consideration. The admission of our seal oil into the American market duty free, appeared to be the question of the greatest difficulty, and no doubt it could not be arranged satisfactorily for this Colony, the Government and Legislature would not be in any way bound to accept the Treaty. He (Mr. F.) was glad to learn from His Excellency that the important French Shore question was receiving the attention of the Imperial Government. This was, at least, something to begin with, and was a proof that our representations upon the matter had not been altogether slighted. It was, perhaps as much as a Colonial Government, situated like ours, could at present expect. While we are in the subordinate and dependent position of Colonists it is inevitable that our interests must be subservient to those of the Imperial Government. As regarded the voting of the necessary supplies for the public service, there could be no second opinion. It was satisfactory to know that the finances of the Colony were in a sound condition, and there would be no difficulty in making the necessary provisions for public wants. The recent development of Agriculture was a subject of congratulation, and it was satisfactory to learn that it had been owing largely to the opening up of main lines of roads. This was a public work upon which our Government might justly pride themselves, for they had accomplished far more in this direction than any previous Government. He (Mr. F.) did not mean that all the credit of these improvements was due to the Government alone, for no doubt former Governments possessed men who were desirous of conferring the same benefits upon the Colony, but the present Government had been avowed with good revenues, and had honestly and judiciously expended them in beneficial public works and improvements. For this policy they had deserved, and had gained the gratitude and confidence of the people to a degree which must be most gratifying both to themselves and their supporters.

Mr. Fenelon.—It was with much pleasure he rose to second the motion of his hon. friend and colleague, the hon. member for St. John's West, for the appointment of a select committee to prepare an Address in reply to the gracious Speech with which His Excellency had been pleased to open the present Session. He (Mr. F.) was indeed happy to be able to reciprocate the expressions of his hon. friend, as to the favorable condition of His Excellency's health. He was happy to see him looking so remarkably well; in fact the health of His Excellency was a matter of great importance, and of deep interest to the community generally, as there never had been a Governor who had given greater public satisfaction in the administration of the Government of this Colony. He (Mr. F.) was much gratified to hear from his hon. friend that the failure of the fisheries was not so general as had been apprehended; but was of a more partial character, and not likely to

[TO BE CONTINUED.]