

important one, on the process just mentioned. It was one of the latest, if not the latest of the various processes we have noticed. It is certain that the best parchment was made at Pergamos, and skins thus prepared were hence called *Charta Pergamena*, of which our *parchment* is a corruption. In Greek they are sometimes called *membrana* (*μυμβρανα*), under which name St. Paul mentions them in 1 Tim. iv. 13. Parchment came to be employed for legal, sacred, and other particular classes of works; but the comparative cheapness of papyrus, combined with as much durability as could be required for the more common literary works, maintained it still in general use. The Jews soon began to write their scriptures on parchment, of which the rolls of the law used in their synagogues are still composed.—*Pictorial Bible*.

THE MECHANICS' FESTIVAL—PROGRESS OF THE TEMPERANCE CAUSE.

Any one disposed to look with despair upon the Temperance Cause in Montreal, or to imagine the long and ardent services of many workers in the cause as so much lost labour, would have changed that opinion had he been present at the Mechanics' Festival, on Thursday week, and compared the assemblage he saw about him, with what such an assemblage would have been twenty years ago; when men thought it unpardonable to meet together where no grog was provided, and that there could be no sociability without a little moderate drunkenness.

Here were present in the rooms, between two and three thousand persons of all ranks and classes in our society, each individual known but to few of the others, all thrown promiscuously together; and yet the utmost order and harmony everywhere prevailed. People elbowed their way through the crowds without rudeness, neither giving nor receiving offence; if one stepped upon another it was considered unintentional, and excited no anger. No one upon the assumption of superior standing in society offended his neighbour by supercilious remarks, and no one considering himself looked down upon, took the occasion of being in the company of genteel persons to express very loudly his private opinions concerning the pretensions of that class. Not only was all this visible in the early part of the evening, but it continued throughout; so that his Excellency the Governor General, could with the utmost justice, express his admiration at the order and decorum everywhere prevailing in such a mixed multitude.

Now, all this was wonderful in Montreal, and yet the cause was very simple, being only, that there was no liquor to be had in the building except tea and coffee, of which there was a most generous abundance; for had a ten gallon keg of brandy been tapped there about nine o'clock, it would have created a confusion equal to the explosion of a keg of gun-powder, and sensible people would have taken up their hats and walked out as quickly as Munchausen says General Elliot did at Gibraltar, when a bomb-shell with a short fuse burning in it flew into his room.

Amid the dark discouragements which has attended the labours of temperance men in Montreal, and which undoubtedly are very great, there is something to reward past exertions and cheer on to greater efforts, in the fact that an assemblage of two or three thousand people of the mixed population of this city promiscuously met for objects of festivity, by simply adhering to temperance principles in the arrangements for the evening, exhibited an universal decorum and good breeding, which drew down the encomiums of all present, and enabled all to listen to the first speech that ever a Governor of Canada addressed to the public. Had affairs been conducted according to the old fashioned rules of festivities and hospitality, his Excellency would have found himself at eleven o'clock at night neither the only speaker in the room nor the loudest, and his opinion of the people among whom he has come to sojourn, would have been infinitely different.

The greatest embarrassment to the cause of temperance in Canada is, that intemperance is not banished from "high places." As with idol worship among the Jews, though often nearly eradicated from among the people, the incense which was continued to be offered up in "high places" continually threw it back to them, or drew them to it. So long as an evil flourishes gloriously in "high places," which should set good examples, we need not wonder at its abiding in "low places," from which few good examples, and only imitations are to be expected. When the Americans took up the temperance reform, the

rich very soon saw that they must give up their wine, before they could insist on the poor giving up their whisky; and to make matters sure, their wives banished liquors from their houses, that there should never be a temptation to offer drinks to calling acquaintances as had been the universal custom in all past time. At first the temperance people were regarded with sneers and laughter, but already are the tables turned and *having got the laugh on their side* they are carrying all before them. There are now strong indications that in a few years the sale of alcohol in all its shapes will be totally prohibited in New York and all the New England states. Open sale will be put down by law, and clandestine sale will be laughed down.

If you can have a few exhibitions, similar to that of the Mechanics' Festival, and if a similar good example could be shown in some other conspicuous places, which it is needless to particularise, you would soon have the laugh on your side here, and from that hour no temperance man would feel discouragement.

SHAME ON OHIO.—A bill to submit to the people the question of the repeal of the Black Laws of Ohio, was, on the 2nd ult., lost in the Senate of that State on a vote for engrossment—31 to 37.

GEN. TAYLOR A TECTOTALLER.—It will be gratifying to the friends of old "Rough and Ready," to know that he is a staunch tectotaller, and has not drunk a glass of "the ardent" for twenty years past. This we state upon authority that we believe to be unquestionable, and comes from an old friend of Gen. Taylor, who has recently seen and conversed with him.

STRANGE SOURCE OF COMFORT.—The deluge of pauper immigrants is such, that the Alms-House Commissioner, in his last report, makes the following remark: "A public ray of relief, however, becomes cheering to the Department in the news from abroad, that 'Hesse Darmstadt is nearly depopulated.'"

The number of Irish paupers now daily in receipt of food and soup at the parish-office, at Liverpool, is nearly 4000. This time last year there were about twenty-five recipients of the same class.

Out of 104 newspapers published in London, fifty seven, more than one half, are "Sunday" papers, many of them constantly pouring sedition and infidelity into the manufacturing districts.

Dr. Lovell, a physician of London, and Mrs. Britts, a respectable inhabitant of Enfield, have been found guilty, by a Coroner's Jury, of manslaughter, for causing the death of Martha Hobbs, the woman's niece, by subjecting her to a course of hydropathic treatment.

Last week, Mr. Thomas Battle got his release from Lancaster Castle, after having been confined there, as a debtor, fifteen years and two months. When he came out, he saw a railway train for the first time in his life.

PRO-SLAVERY MOB.—We learn from the Christian Advocate and Journal, that the Methodist Church at Guilford Accomac Co., Va., was surrounded by a mob, some weeks since, while the congregation were engaged in religious services on the Sabbath. The preacher, Rev. James Hargis, had proceeded awhile in the discussion of his subject, when the mob commenced shouting around the Church, throwing missiles against it, and hallooing to such a degree, that the congregation was so alarmed that some left the Church. Under these circumstances, Mr. Hargis could not proceed. He left the Church without any personal violence being done to him; but he was told, when about to leave, that if he came there any more they would put him in the mill pond near by. On the following Monday the matter was brought before the Grand Jury. A competent witness was before them, and one (if no more) of the Jurors repeatedly called the attention of the foreman to the subject, but it received no attention from him. The cause of these riotous proceedings was, that the preacher and his congregation had come to the conclusion to retain their connection with the Methodist Church North, of whose allegiance to Slavery the mobocrats entertain some doubt.

A resolution has been adopted by upwards of eighty ministers of different denominations in Glasgow, with a view to the discouraging of the serving of wine at funerals. The Town Council of Glasgow have unanimously agreed to lend their influence in favour of the measure. A similar movement is taking place in the north.

An "Irish landed proprietor," who is believed to be the Duke of Bedford, has forwarded to the general relief committee a subscription of one thousand pounds for that ill-fated locality, Skibbercen.

The inmates of Morningside Asylum have recently formed an artificial pond in the grounds, and instituted a curling club among themselves. By the kindness of the Duddingston and Merchiston clubs, who have presented them with a number of curling stones, these unfortunates are now occasionally enjoying the pleasures of this exultating and ancient game.

Several successful surgical operations have been performed lately in Guy's Hospital, under the new process of inhalation of ether. The patients did not feel the least pain.

We learn that the Temperance movement is about to receive an important impulse from several of the leading Free Church ministers of this city (Edinburgh), who, having acted privately for some time past on the principles of abstinence from intoxicating liquors, are now proposing to make a public movement on the subject. In order to recommend it to the influential classes of society, and invest the movement with a higher and nobler aspect, it is suggested by some, we believe, that individuals in the middle and upper ranks especially, who adopt the abstinence principle, should devote the money formerly spent in wines and liquors to the relief of the poor and other benevolent objects.—*Scottish Herald*.