

the city, and who had already manifested a laudable regard for those interests. The latter is the interpretation to which we lean, partly, because of the Governor's known sentiments, and partly, because such a course was indicated by the report of the Magistrates themselves, and by various Memorials as the most desirable on the part of the Executive.

A special meeting of the Magistrates was convened, to consider and reply to the Governor's communication, at which we understand there was a muster of Magistrates who own tavern stands, which had been refused licenses, or who were otherwise directly or indirectly interested in deciding the question in favour of the tavern keepers. Several of these gentlemen were not previously in the habit of attending the sessions at all, and one qualified himself for the occasion. We mention these particulars in order to afford the only feasible explanation of the extraordinary change which it will presently appear had come over the views of the Bench.

The Memorial of the citizens to the Magistrates, which was published in last *Advocate*, was entrusted for presentation to a deputation, who declined the meeting in question a proper opportunity, as it was the first which had occurred, and was on the very subject of the Memorial, viz., Tavern licenses. On application for admission, however, they were encountered by various difficulties and delays, and though at last admitted they were informed that the majority of the Magistrates had decided that they were not to be allowed the customary privilege of reading the Memorial at all, or even of stating what it was about, but merely to lay down the roll of paper on the table, or, if they preferred they might take it back again, and wait for another opportunity of presenting it, as the Magistrates were then engaged in special business. They were also informed that the Magistrates would cause the Memorial to be read by their clerk, if they chose; but even this ceremony, we understand, was not deemed necessary. Such was the reception of the respectful, and even laudatory Memorial of 800 respectable citizens of Montreal, amongst whom were the Roman Catholic Bishop, and nearly all the clergy of every denomination, as well as the first merchants of the city, and a large portion of the influential classes. The state of feeling indicated by this reception was, we are informed, so strikingly manifested in the other proceedings of the meeting, that the Magistrates who had been engaged in the investigation of applications for licenses, and who had made a noble and patriotic stand for the public good, felt constrained to retire, and leave the majority to manage matters in their own way.

We do not know precisely how the affair stands at present, or, whether any or all of the refused applications have been granted, but it needs little penetration to discover that the great interests of the public will meet with little attention from parties who, though they sit in judgment upon the question, are, as owners of tavern stands, or otherwise, directly interested in its decision in favour of the tavern keepers.

The evils caused by the multiplication of taverns may be demonstrated in all their melancholy magnitude beyond a doubt, the public morality and prosperity may be clearly shown to be at stake—but all we fear will be of no avail as long as the clamours of the tavern keepers are addressed to a tribunal which is, in part, at least, swayed by interest in their favour.

We are prepared to see, in this, as in all former instances, the flood-gates of immorality and wretchedness opened upon the public generally, for the gain of a few, and our only hope is, that the people may become too enlightened and wary to be robbed and ruined in the legalized snares so profusely prepared for them.

CITY REPRESENTATION.

In our last number, we made some remarks under the above head, which have been severely, and we think, most unjustly unmindful, by some of the Montreal and Quebec political papers; none of which, however, have ventured to insert our article for the benefit of such of their readers as would wish to judge for themselves. Indeed one editor had the candour to admit, that though he severely condemned it, he had never even read it; and we suspect, from the utterly distorted view taken of it by others, that he is not the only one in this predicament. Such conduct may suit political writers, but we entreat all who have any regard for justice, to read the article before they assent to the partizan cry which has been raised against it. One thing is certain, no party as at present constituted, could venture to use it for party purposes, as it would cut as deeply on one side as on the other; may we believe all political parties would unite to oppose the principles laid down in it, rather than see them triumph. Should there be any Temperance men who feel aggrieved by the insertion in the *Advocate* of anything however remotely affecting politics, we beg leave to say that it was an imperative sense of duty to the public, as the only Temperance journalists in the Province, that forced us to remark upon a case which was thrust upon our notice whether we would or not—a case which we could not allow to pass, without being justly obnoxious to the charge of being valiant against the poor and weak, and faint-hearted and truckling before the strong and wealthy. We are told that we shall lose many friends by the course we have pursued in this matter, and if the case be so, we shall deeply regret it; but we are prepared to lose every friend we have in the world rather than the approbation of conscience—rather than be knowingly inconsistent and unfaithful in the discharge of the important duties with which we are entrusted.

There are some circumstances connected with the election in question, that manifest an encouraging progress in the Temperance Reformation. For instance, in all the laudatory articles published in the political papers friendly to Mr. Molson, and in all the placards profusely stuck upon the walls, the fact of his being a distiller is never once hinted at. He is called "The Canadian Merchant," never "The Canadian Distiller," although the definite article would apply much better in the latter connection. Why sink entirely out of sight, or rather attempt to cloak his business? Surely, because that business is considered more or less disputable; and this is a great step gained towards a healthy state of public sentiment. A circumstance has been communicated to us, which will not only show that Mr. Molson deserves the title of *The Canadian Distiller*, but also the importance to him of a position in which he may be able effectually to watch over the interests of his business. We allude to the amount of duty payable by him under the excise law which he went to Kingston to oppose and which is said to be between two and three thousand pounds per annum*!

In any remarks we have made respecting Mr. Molson, we would be understood to refer solely to the traffic in which he is engaged. In his private relations we believe him to be an upright, intelligent, and gentlemanly man, and our extreme astonishment is, that such a man can follow a business which does more harm to society than all the crimes punished by the laws, besides being the chief instigator of those crimes—which does more than war, famine, and pestilence united, to scatter desolation and death throughout the community.

The following suggestions are entitled to great weight on account of the character and importance of the body from which they

* Should there be any error in the above statement, which we make on what we believe to be good authority, we will gladly insert the exact amount, if communicated to us.