

quest of Mr. Buckingham, went into the statistics, and every body knows that England is, at this present moment overburdened with poor—and there is no doubt whatever, that a great majority of them were brought to their miserable dependence from the use of intoxicating drinks. We, in Canada, are pretty well able to bear anything—we are rich, but, if we wish to follow the vicious example of sanctioning and entertaining this vice, we must expect to be surrounded with all the evils of pauperism, with which England is, and has been, overwhelmed. Let us determine not to admit of the sale, use, or manufacture of intoxicating drinks in any possible way in which the Government can properly interfere to restrain the sale thereof. [The hon. gentleman then read an extract from a protest against granting licenses for the sale of liquors, presented to the House of Commons, signed by Lords Chesterfield, Talbot, Haversham, Halifax, Bristol, Alsbury, Hadford, Oxford, and Mortimer.] I have collected a number of facts as to the operation of the law in various parts of the United States, which I intended to have printed in my report, but I must now refer to the voice of the people of this country, on the subject of this bill. I find, Mr. Speaker, that we have petitions from seven great religious associations—from municipalities seven—from families nine,—and from public meetings on behalf of inhabitants vast numbers. I mentioned when I presented the petition, that the first name on one was that of an eminent Canadian, a clergyman of the Church of England. And when you find united Associations, coming forward, in addition to 80,000 of our people, I am satisfied that this bill ought not to be treated either lightly or with derision. The people of this country feel such a great interest in it, that it cannot fail to bear a character of the highest importance, in this House. Although I am not sure we shall carry a majority in this House, because many opponents may come forth, still, I believe that if carried, this bill would do immense good at the present moment, and work advantageously to the interest of the country, although I am prepared to admit, that there will be certain evils flowing from it. It is quite certain there will be evasions of this law, and it may lead to fraud and so on, but I am prepared for all these objections. And what are they? Nothing. Will not the passing of the bill tend to make our countrymen the better, and is there any reason against the adoption of, or enforcing its operation? No Mr. Speaker, the question for the people is, "will it not decrease the amount of the evil at present existing and close many of these open doors of temptation and protect those who are now suffering from these doors being open for the sale of this liquid fire?" I will not trespass longer upon the time of the House, but I hope the bill will, at all events, be sustained by those whose constituents have expressed themselves as strongly as those I have the honour here to represent.

After the honourable member resumed his seat, a few others addressed the House, and the debate was adjourned. The result is before the country. We must say that the talk of the opposition was exceedingly feeble and stale. We can't afford to print it, but we shall have a little to say once in a while concerning some of these gentlemen, and the position we occupy before their constituencies. In the meanwhile, may the league prosper and find its friends in every nook and corner of Canada.

✶ The Maine Law has been fully sustained in all its features, by the decision of their Supreme Court, one sentence is sufficient for our purpose, as it covers the whole ground; it is this:

"The state by its legislative enactments, operating prospectively, may determine that articles injurious to the public health, or morals, shall not constitute property, within its jurisdiction. * * * If a Legislature declares that no person shall acquire any property in them for such purpose (using them as a beverage) there would be no occasion for a complaint that it had violated any provisions of the constitution."—*Ib.*

GOLD FISH.—This beautiful little fish, called in this country "gold and silver fish," are originally natives of China and Japan, where they are held in great estimation, and called Kinyu. From China the English carried some of them to the island of St. Helena; and from thence the Captain of one of our East India ships brought some of them to England in the year 1728.—*Rymell.*

Canada Temperance Advocate.

MONTREAL, MAY 16, 1853.

Agitation for the Maine Law, Prince Edward's Island.

It is gratifying to know that all the British provinces are acting for the Maine Law. From the *Advertiser* of Charlottetown, Prince Edward's Island, we learn that an important meeting was held there on Good Friday last. It will be especially encouraging to many warm hearted friends in Western Canada, to know that the Rev. Dr. Evans, who for many years laboured as a Wesleyan minister in Hamilton, London, and elsewhere, has taken a decided stand on this question. We give the particulars of the meeting, that Canadians may see what is doing in the pleasant Island above named, in order to obtain a prohibitory enactment:—

A public meeting was held in the Temperance Hall, Charlottetown, on Good Friday, at half past 2 o'clock P.M., to discuss the propriety and practicability of abolishing by Law the manufacture and sale of Intoxicating Liquors upon this Island. The spacious Division Room was well filled. Rev. Dr. Evans, Wesleyan minister and chairman of the District occupied the Chair. The Chairman briefly explained the objects of meeting. The Petition of upwards of three thousand inhabitants of this Island, praying for the abolition of the liquor traffic, he observed, had been, in somewhat a summary manner, disposed of by the House of Assembly, upon the ground he presumed that the country was not prepared for the enactment of such a Law at present. The meeting now held was intended as a commencement of a series of meetings to be held throughout the Island, for the purpose of eliciting free discussion, that the people might be correctly informed upon the point, and their wishes distinctly known. He stated it as his opinion that such a Law was called for, and would ultimately be enacted and enforced. He felt assured that the discussion, on the present occasion, would be conducted with proper calmness and candour, and that he would be supported in his intention of discharging in a proper manner, the duties of the position assigned him, as chairman of the meeting.

The following Resolutions were passed by a large majority.

1. Moved by Com. Orlebar, R. N., seconded by Rev. Mr. Rand.—

Resolved,—That experience has proved that the use of Intoxicating Liquors as a beverage, is the cause of a very large proportion of the ills that affect communities, in producing crime, poverty and demoralization.

2. Moved by John Arbuckle, Esq., seconded by Rev. Mr. Narraway.—

Resolved,—That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is expedient to prohibit by Law, all traffic in Spirituous or Intoxicating Liquors, or the manufactures or distillation thereof, for any other than medical or mechanical purposes.

3. Moved by Rev. Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. William C. Trowan.—

That whereas much misunderstanding exists upon the subject of the Maine Law, and on the subject of Temperance in general, therefore—*Resolved*,—That a competent Lecturer, or Lecturers, be obtained, to travel throughout the Island to deliver lectures, distribute Tracts and other Temperance publications, organize Temperance Societies, &c., and in every proper way promote the great object.

4. Moved by Mr. James Moore, seconded by James B. Cooper, Esq.—

Resolved,—That in order to accomplish the object contemplated in the last Resolution, a subscription list be now opened, and a Committee appointed to solicit subscriptions for meeting the expense.

The following Committee was then appointed, in accordance with the foregoing Resolutions:—Samuel Westcott, John Rider, Wm. Mackay, W. B. Dawson, Bertram Moore, Thomas Williams, Benjamin Chappel, Wm. Trowan, Adam Murray, J. J. Pippy.