

HAMILTON, May.—At the annual meeting of the Hamilton District of the Methodist Church of Canada on Tuesday the following was unanimously carried. "We believe the liquor traffic to be the cause of a large proportion of the crime in our land and fraught with untold misery to the bodies and souls of multitudes of our people; that it possesses almost unlimited power to impair every interest of the home, the church, and the State; that it is one of the greatest hindrances to the accomplishment of the Divine mission of the church in the world; that it is the duty of the State to prohibit this traffic and not protect it; that prohibition is not an interference with the true liberty of the citizen; that the last session of the Dominion Parliament accepted the principle of prohibition, and declared its willingness to give prohibitory laws when the country was prepared to adopt and enforce them. Be it therefore resolved that we believe the country is ready for prohibition, and that this district meeting, composed of ministers and laymen, representing a membership of upwards of 4,000, recommend the Conference to make arrangements for concerted action with all other churches and temperance organizations in their efforts to circulate petitions to be presented to the Senate and House of Commons of Canada at their next session, praying for the enactment of such prohibitory laws."—*Mail*.

DURHAM.—An advisory meeting, attended by gentlemen from Darlington, Clarke, Newcastle and this town, was held in the Son's Hall here on Saturday afternoon last, to consider the method of action which should be adopted in preparing the way for a submission of the Scott Act to a vote of the people. Mr. A. Barber was appointed chairman, and Mr. W. W. Tambllyn secretary. It was decided that meetings should be held at a few central points in the riding, and then petitions circulated for signatures, asking the Dominion Government to submit the Act for approval or otherwise. Each municipality will be independently canvassed for signatures, as may be arranged for by local committee. An advisory committee for the riding was appointed, consisting of Messrs. A. Barber, R. Knox, M. Munday, J. L. Power, R. Eddy, T. Yellowlees, J. Rundel, A. J. Reynolds, Capt. Bunt. The clergy were well represented at the meeting on Saturday, and the general interest manifested augurs well for the success of the movement.—*Bowmanville Sun*.

Temperance News.

MR. JAMES FRENCH'S MAGNIFICENT OFFER.

HE WANTS TO GIVE \$6,000 TOWARDS A NEW TEMPERANCE HEAD-QUARTERS IN TORONTO—HOW THE IDEA ORIGINATED—THE TEMPERANCE PARTY ENTHUSED AND THE LIQUOR SELLERS DISCOMFITED BY THE OFFER—INTERVIEWED BY A "CITIZEN" REPORTER.

Readers of the Toronto dailies on opening their papers a few mornings ago found the following brief and modest, but very important communication:—

SIR,—Will you kindly give me space to say a few words on temperance. This is something that affects the interests of all mankind, and the ladies join in the chorus. I should like to see a very nice temperance hall built as early as possible on the most suitable place convenient, here and after thought of. I hope that all the friends of temperance who are able will give something towards the erection of a first-class temperance hall. If the citizens will raise \$10,000, I will give \$2,000 myself; if \$20,000, I will give \$4,000 myself, and if \$30,000, I will give \$6,000 myself.

I sincerely hope the friends of temperance will call a meeting, and that all the friends of temperance will be there. I shall be prepared at once for \$2,000 if the citizens raise \$10,000. If they raise \$20,000, my \$4,000 is ready at any time. I would much rather they would raise \$30,000 and give me a chance to put \$6,000 of my money to such a valuable cause.

I trust there are a great number of wealthy citizens who take a deep interest in temperance, as it affects man's home, and comforts more than anything else. I do sincerely hope that the \$20,000 will be raised forthwith.

Mr. Editor, there is nothing that degrades the human family like drunkenness; it robs the home of every comfort in life, as well as food and raiment, and it brings mankind lower than the brute creation, and very much more so. The moderate drinker says that

he can drink or let it alone. That is his intention, but grog gives appetites to which men's senses often fall victims. When we think of the respect due to woman, we ought to make her home as comfortable as possible. Now, hoping that all the friends of temperance will be up and doing, I sincerely hope that I will be able to give the \$6,000 within a year, or sooner if needed.

JAMES FRENCH.

Toronto, May 13.

WHO IS MR. FRENCH?

Mr. French is known as one of our wealthiest and most public spirited citizens, but his efforts have usually been directed to the removal of municipal abuses, and the discussion of the details of city government, and everyone started on seeing his name connected with such a magnanimous offer in aid of the temperance cause; not that he is not a temperance man, but he has never "talked temperance" so as to be realized as one of the war-horses. His motto has rather been that of the man-of-war, "Deeds—not Words." Though Mr. French is "not so young as he used to be, some fifty years ago," he made his maiden temperance speech only a year ago. Lately his mind has been directed more particularly to the evils of the accursed traffic, and he has made an offer of the largest amount of money ever contributed at one time by a single individual in Canada to the Temperance cause. A representative of THE CITIZEN, anxious to give to the temperance people of Canada the fullest particulars in reference to Mr. French's offer, called on that gentleman to learn

HOW IT CAME ABOUT.

Sitting in the Bloor Street Methodist church on Sunday, 11th inst, some remarks were made which directed Mr. French's thoughts to the great temperance problem; and in considering how he should dispose of his estate it occurred to him that he could not do better than help in the erection of a building which will serve the temperance cause as a permanent headquarters—a fort for protection against the invader—a barracks where the soldiers of the temperance army can meet for conference—a storehouse for the supply of ammunition—a rallying point in times of active contest.

"What about the present Temperance Hall on Temperance street?" queried the reporter.

"Too far south," replied Mr. French; "I was asked to-day if my offer was not a scheme to sell my Royal Opera House site on King street; but it is too far south as well, and, besides, it is too expensive for the Temperance Hall idea. I am not particular where the Hall is built—the temperance people must decide that. One thing is certain, I will not consent to it being built on any property I own, for I have no axe to grind or personal object to serve in this matter."

"I have been talking to a good temperance man to-day," said the CITIZEN representative, "and he is ready to join in the \$30,000 idea to the extent of \$500, but he thinks you are pretty safe not to be called on for the \$6,000."

"I am sorry any one should think so," Mr. French replied, "I do not see why there should not be \$30,000 raised by temperance men in Toronto and outside for such an object, but if that amount cannot be reached, let it be 20,000 or \$10,000, and I will give \$4,000 or \$2,000 as agreed. I propose immediately to deposit my share in a bank, and have it drawing four per cent. interest, which will go to increase the fund, and other contributions may be deposited as they come in. \$10,000 added to my \$2,000 would give us a small but respectable hall; \$20,000, with my \$4,000 added, would be much better, but I should much prefer \$30,000 raised, so that I can add \$6,000 and let us put up a first-class building that will suit all purposes and have a hall so that when any temperance men come to Toronto we can give them a proper reception."

Further details in connection with the scheme were discussed between the reporter and Mr. French, during which it was suggested that a meeting of representative temperance men should be called at an early day to arrange a plan for achieving the much desired object which Mr. French is so willing to aid in the most practical way.

Before leaving Mr. French's quiet home on North street, that gentleman kindly allowed the reporter to read the autograph letters from General Wolseley, Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone and Lord Dufferin, written in acknowledgement of presents of choice Canadian apples sent to Egypt and England last autumn, also a letter from Queen Victoria's Secretary in reference to a similar present sent to Her Majesty.