

The Soiree of the Sons of Temperance.

We have much pleasure in transferring to our columns the following account of the first soiree of the Sons of Temperance in Quebec, which we find in the *Quebec Gazette* :—

We stated in our last that the Sons of Temperance had made considerable preparations for their celebration, and on Wednesday evening we were rejoiced at seeing that their efforts had not been in vain.

At half-past six o'clock precisely, the doors were thrown open, and we witnessed with pleasure the assembling of the company; small parties of friends succeeding each other, until at last the large Hall became well filled with a highly respectable audience. We believe the number present could not be far short of five hundred.

Shortly after seven o'clock, the members of "Concord" Section Cadets of Temperance, headed by their Worthy Patron, proceeded, two and two, from the wardrobe of the House into the Hall, where they took the seats reserved for them. Then followed the members of "Gough" Division S. of T., the Worthy Patriarch proceeding to his seat on the platform, as chairman of the meeting; while the excellent Band of the 79th Highlanders played a favourite march. The sight was an imposing one, the members wearing the plain but neat and appropriate regalia of their respective orders; and adding much to the effect of the scene as it presented itself to our view.

After a few short, but appropriate remarks from the Chairman, the opening Ode was sung, and the Rev. A. C. Geikie engaged in prayer.

After prayer the presiding officer rose and delivered an ably written address on the origin, objects, and success of the Order of the Sons of Temperance; from which we learn, that in July last the Order had extended itself throughout the whole of the United States, New Brunswick, and Canada, and had of late been introduced into Liverpool, England, where it is making rapid progress. The total numerical strength of the Order, according to the latest returns, is about 250,000.

During the evening the company was entertained at intervals by the Band, who discoursed beautiful music. Among the pieces performed, we noticed "*La Fille du Regiment*," played with thrilling effect, with others, in which the excellent taste of Mr. Fromm, their able conductor, was fully displayed. Mr. and Mrs. Dickenson's vocal and instrumental performances united, added much to the entertainment of the company.

We understand that several gentlemen were expected to address the meeting, in which the "Sons" were disappointed—the Rev. Mr. Geikie's being the only speech of the evening. The Rev. gentleman's address was excellent, and every way calculated to produce a deep and lasting impression on the minds of the audience.

But we must not pass the "Cadets" by unnoticed; the sight of that band of youths, enlisted against the drinking usages of society, speaks volumes for the future of our city. Master J. Leitch, the Worthy Archon of the Section of Cadets, delivered a very appropriate address on the objects of the Order, which was enthusiastically received.

A piece of poetry, on the evil effects of the use of intoxicating drinks, was recited by Master James Barnard, Vice-Archon of the Section, with good effect, and was received with great applause.

The Temperance Ode—"Cadets of Temperance"—was well sung by the Section, and loudly echoed by the audience.

We had almost forgotten the decorations of the Hall, in which the taste and ability of the Committee of Management were largely displayed. We congratulate the members of the Division on the success which has attended their first celebration, and we sincerely and heartily wish them prosperity in their undertaking.

About half-past ten o'clock the company began to separate, the F. closing the entertainment by playing the National Anthem.

Vermont.

The position of this State is one of intense interest to all the friends of Temperance throughout the Union. After struggling onward and upward toward the mark, ever felt to be desirable, but viewed by most men as unattainable, who has at length reached it, and has, by a strong and decided majority of her voters and legislators, barred out of the State that traffic which has so long been a curse to her citizens, and dragged many a father and son to an untimely grave. But the men of the State who have crushed this foe, well know that it is not fully exterminated. It has its friends, plausible, artful, ready to take the least advantage offered to bring it back, that a few may riot in the gain it may bring them. They have a great work to do to maintain the position they have taken. And that they may well survey the field and meet every exigency, and maintain a strong public sentiment, they met on the 16th of January in a general and strong Convention, at Middlebury. One hundred and ninety-one gentlemen gathered from various parts of the State, were present. Among them, it is said, there was no small share of the talent and influence of the State. Their proceedings were deeply interesting, and should be spread over the State and Nation. We hope and trust that full opportunity will now be given in this State for a fair trial of a prohibitory statute, and that they will not be cheated out of it as was the State of New York, by wily politicians. Among the resolutions adopted by the Convention of most importance are the following:

Resolved, That in the provisions of the present license law, the friends of temperance have the necessary (legislative) aid to the successful prosecution of the work.

Resolved, That a full and proper expression of a correct public opinion is now more necessary than ever, both to restrain those who are addicted to the use of intoxicating liquors, and to secure the observance of the law.

Resolved, That a strict and scrupulous observance of the law is an imperative duty, and every good citizen will voluntarily and cheerfully abide by the law, will exert his influence in favor of its support, and prevent, if possible, the necessity of a resort to its penalties to enforce it.

Resolved, That in a government like ours, all our laws and all our customs are based on public opinion, or perhaps more properly, public opinion originates the laws and customs that may exist. Hence the importance of securing a correct public sentiment on all the great subjects which deeply interest the welfare, both of individuals and of the community at large. To do this we still regard moral suasion to be the great instrument by which the world must be moved; that our work in this respect is but just begun, and we earnestly entreat the friends of temperance to renewed efforts to persuade their fellow men, as they regard their well being, to abstain from all that can intoxicate.

Resolved, That as the pulpit is the most efficient agent in forming public opinion, and in enlightening public conscience on all moral questions, the clergymen of the different denominations be earnestly requested to preach, (at least once a year,) to their respective congregations, on the duty of all lovers of public peace and order, faithfully observing the law themselves and discountenancing the infractions of it by others.

Resolved, That we exceedingly regret that the proprietors of steam boats on Lake Champlain should have permitted the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage on board their boats, during the last year, and in our judgment, a due regard to public opinion, the interest of the community and of the proprietors themselves, all unite in requiring a discontinuance of the practice.

Resolved, That the success which, in the last few years, has attended the efforts of the Sons of Temperance, the Rechabites, and other similar organizations in Vermont, is viewed by this Convention as a most cheering indication of the increasing interest taken by the young men of Vermont in the good cause of Temperance, and therefore gives us strong ground of hope for the future.

The new license law of this State absolutely prohibits the sale of intoxicating liquors, except for medical, chemical, and mechanical purposes. Not more than two persons can be licensed by the selectmen of a town to sell liquor for these purposes; and no innkeeper or grocer can receive a license to sell it upon any condition. The penalty for selling over twenty gallons is \$20; under twenty gallons, \$10.