

rated with emblematic banners, and the choir-gallery tastefully ornamented, was occupied by a select party of vocal and instrumental amateurs, ready to pour their harmonizing influence over the assembly; and most efficiently did they do so, at a later period of the evening. Two tables, extending the whole length of the hall, stood in the midst, groaning under every variety of cakes that culinary skill and female taste could fashion or prepare, whilst the grateful fumes of the tea-urn began already to ascend and fill the air with the refreshing fragrance of the "celestial shrub." An instant before the mallet of the chairman was put in requisition, the *coup d'air* from the gallery was amusingly indiscreet; every "cranny and loop hole" appeared already to have been occupied, but now the pressure grew into an actual scramble, and lucky was the swain who could at length find for his protégé, "a single sitting for two." The managing committee exhausted themselves and their resources with the devotion of martyrs; but the stalwart yeomen of the township of Toronto, however ardent their fair companions, proved too stubborn a mould to be "squeezed into nothing," and we are told several of them returned to their homes without being able to obtain admittance. Be this as it may, we can safely assert that enough were there to satisfy the most eager expectant. Babes in arms, and sires in second childhood, matrons grave and maidens gay, decked in every variety of costume, "from russet gown to silken robe," were crowded together in the most pleasing variety, and with true republican disregard of rank or station; and fastidious indeed must be the eye that could not find some delightful resting place.

"Beauty was there in all its charms,
And freely lent its aid to all."

Shortly after seven o'clock the chair was assigned, by acclamation, to Dr. Crew, who, on assuming it, addressed a few appropriate remarks to the assembly in his own peculiarly happy manner. "He felt proud to be called upon to perform this duty. It was the second time that it fell to his lot to preside at a Rechabite soiree, and, although the one at which he formerly officiated left the most gratifying reminiscence, he felt that this was an occasion of surpassing interest and importance, and that a great honour had been put upon him. When he looked on the dense array before him, he doubted of his own ability to discharge the duty which devolved upon him with efficiency; but he relied on the decorum of the company, and the assistance of the managing committee; and he believed his task would be rendered easy and pleasant. He had no doubt that a good deal of inconvenience would be felt from the crowded state of the apartment; but he trusted this would be cheerfully borne with on account of the cause, which was one of paramount excellence, being, in fact, the amelioration of the human family. The Doctor alluded, feelingly, to the peculiar privileges enjoyed by the people of this country, when such peaceful demonstrations as the present could be placed in contrast with the disturbed gatherings of Continental Europe, which could only be held under the ban of official condemnation." The chairman having resumed his seat, the ladies presiding at the tables began to dispense their bounties, and the choir poured forth a favourite melody, which was succeeded by several pieces executed with much taste and judgment. Indeed, without any invidious distinction, it may be said that the music, next to the ladies, was the greatest attraction of the evening.

Tea over, the chairman introduced to the meeting Mr. Richardson, of Toronto, a veteran of the Temperance cause, who, in a lucid and comprehensive address, exhibited the evils of intemperance and the beneficial influence exerted by associations of this nature. He felt no difficulty in addressing the meeting. On such a subject he was not afraid that he should have too little to say—his fear was he should have too much, although he saw around him many others better qualified than himself to engage the attention of the company. He was pleased to see so many present; indeed the place was too crowded (a voice—no, no.) He particularly hailed the presence of so many young faces, and augured well from this circumstance, as from the young must the future champions be drawn and the ranks filled up. He had travelled much of the country westward, and could speak from experience of the progress of the cause—it was gaining fast hold on the community and would ultimately prevail. This house, got up with so much expedition, for temperance objects, bore testimony that the cause was no mushroom growth. He spoke of his own early advocacy of temperance. He had formerly held the doctrine of abstinence from distilled liquors only, but he had, for years, been persuaded that this ground was un-

tenable, and he had therefore pushed forward his position, and built his fortress on the rock of teetotalism—the only safeguard of the cause. He answered objections held to societies like this. It was strange, that in so enlightened an age any one could be found to urge objections to institutions so beneficial in their tendency; yet, such there were, and he regretted to say, many persons of good intentions and piety were among the number, on the ground of their encroaching on the province of the gospel. The fallacy of this objection he illustrated by cogent arguments, and concluded by expressing his belief that such institutions were useful servants in the cause of the gospel, striving to lead their feeble aid to its influence in ameliorating the condition of the human family, and promoting their best interests in this world and the next.

Jesse Ketchum, Esq., of Buffalo, next addressed the assembly at considerable length, expatiating on the evils of intemperance and the beneficial influence exercised by Rechabite Societies wherever they existed. He alluded to the extraordinary march of the human mind in the present age, and expressed his belief that the general diffusion of temperance principles would lead the masses to such a degree of mental development, that discoveries would multiply infinitely, and society advance to comparative perfection. He dwelt on the blessings enjoyed by this Province—the health, the peace, and the plenty which prevailed. We had a fine climate, rich soil, and good government—and every man might lie down in security and enjoy the fruits of his industry undisturbed; thus offering a contrast to other countries for which we should be thankful. He alluded to the approach of the cholera, and called upon drunkards to beware—they were its certain victims. He concluded with the apostolic exhortation "Whatsoever things are, &c."

Mr. Arnold, from England, was here introduced to the audience, and spoke very energetically for a considerable time, interspersing his address with several anecdotes connected with his own exertions in the cause of temperance; but we were unable to take notes of his speech owing to the pressure.

The Rev. David Wright, in moving a vote of thanks to the ladies for the great pains taken by them in preparing viands for the occasion, offered a few appropriate remarks, and was succeeded by the Rev. Wm. McClure, who gave a very interesting and eloquent address, replete with humour and information. He would have preferred being permitted to decline the invitation to address the assembly, but, having come so far to attend the meeting, it might not look becoming an old teetotaler to leave without offering a few remarks, especially when it devolved upon him to move a resolution expressive of the hearty concurrence of the meeting, in the objects of the Rechabite Society, and its best wishes for their success. It afforded him infinite gratification to see such a handsome building erected for a Temperance Association, and to witness such a respectable procession of temperance disciples as he had seen to-day. He dwelt on the progress of the cause in Ireland, whence he had recently arrived. It had been formerly the practice, in that country, to put up at taverns, figures of the Saints, on certain occasions, and to have them painted on the sign-boards; and he remembered a poor fellow who, on one occasion, after having been "drowning the shamrock," according to immemorial custom, with rather too much devotion, was heard ejaculating, as he stood tottering opposite one of these sacred effigies, and almost sinking under all the miseries succeeding his revels, "Oh, blessed St. Patrick! what I am suffering for your sake this blessed day." It was deemed, as it were, an act of piety in those days to get drunk; but things had taken another direction since, and the sign-boards which swung so long as attractions to the taproom, were now but seldom to be seen. In some instances the innkeepers themselves were among the first to abandon the traffic, turning their capital into other channels; and one may now travel many miles without seeing a tavern or meeting a drunken person. He would urge on the ladies the propriety of forming Rechabite Societies among themselves. They had such in Ireland, and the ancient Rechabites included in their number the wives and daughters of the men that belonged to the order. There was another feature connected with the societies in Ireland which, perhaps, might be serviceable to others here to mention. He meant the efforts of the members to promote mutual intellectual improvement. In Belfast, one of the members, a hatter, taught the others Latin and German for a couple of hours two evenings in the week; another taught lineal drawing; another grammar, &c. The Rev. gentleman, in conclusion,