

Canada Temperance Advocate.

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 1, 1851.

Fifteenth Anniversary of the Montreal Temperance Society.

The Fifteenth Anniversary of the Montreal Temperance Society, was held in the American Presbyterian Church, on Monday evening, the 27th ultimo, J. DeWitt, Esq., M.P.P., in the chair. The spacious edifice was crowded to overflowing; many had to go away, from the impossibility of obtaining entrance. The meeting was impressive and encouraging. It is very gratifying to find, from the Report, that the Committee are now free from debt. It may not be generally known that this debt has been the accumulation of several years, arising from the efforts of the Committee, more especially for the Province generally, in the publication of the *Advocate*, sending out lecturers, &c., which the donations and subscriptions were utterly inadequate to sustain. Nevertheless, the Committee continued to labor on until they found themselves inadequate to the task; for the two past years especially, their efforts have been completely cramped and paralyzed by it. But now, that it is removed, it is to be hoped that they will take hold of their appropriate work with renewed vigor.

Hitherto the Committee have not only done the work, but also to a burthensome extent, furnished the means for their operations. This is not as it should be, and we would hope that the Christian public are now so fully convinced of the necessity of the Society's operations being thoroughly carried out, as to supply the necessary funds—the Committee on their part, as has been their wont, rendering an annual statement.

The following Report was read on the occasion above referred to:—

THE REPORT

The Committee, which is now drawing its labors for the year to a close, has no long report of varied and continuous efforts to offer. The multiplication of other Temperance organizations, has, in a considerable degree, divided the responsibility which used to rest upon this Society; and the debt in which it became involved by its former efforts prevented any new undertaking which should occasion expense.

JOHN B. GOUGH

Earnestly desirous, nevertheless, of devising some measure by which the Temperance cause might be advanced, without pecuniary sacrifice, your Committee, as far back as February last, invited the justly celebrated Temperance lecturer, John B. Gough, to deliver ten lectures in this city, guaranteeing him, of course, the usual return which he worthily reaps from his labors. Mr. Gough could not, on account of his engagements, visit Montreal at that time, but, with a deep solicitude for this city, which he has frequently expressed, he agreed to come in September, although pressed by solicitations from various parts of the United States.

The result of that visit is too well known to require description here. Mr. Gough conquered much of the prejudice which has so long existed in the minds of many of our most influential and worthy citizens against the Temperance cause. Audiences came to hear him, such as were never seen at Temperance meetings in Montreal before, and, so far as we have learned, the result was an amount of satisfaction at his mode of advocating the cause, and conviction of the soundness of his arguments which was, by the parties in question, perhaps little anticipated. This most gratifying result was as much due to the candor of Mr. Gough, and the

pains which he took to distinguish between the systems he condemned, and the individuals involved in these systems, as to his great abilities and convincing arguments.

Mr. Gough delivered twelve lectures in this city, the greater part of which were in the Cord Street Free Church, kindly granted for the series. A lecture to the military was, by permission of the commanding officers, most of whom attended, given in Gosford Street Church, the results of which, in the garrison, were very cheering, upwards of 200 of the soldiers having signed the pledge. There was also a lecture to the children of the various schools of the city, and a farewell lecture on Mr. Gough's return from Quebec, both in the American Presbyterian Church. On the latter occasion, notwithstanding the large size of the edifice, it is estimated that scarcely half of those who came could find admittance, and much disappointment was expressed that a larger place could not be obtained.

The results of Mr. Gough's visit were satisfactory in every point of view.

1st. His advocacy of the cause did as much, probably, as had been done in any previous year, to convince the public mind of the danger of using intoxicating drinks, and of the safety and pleasantness of renouncing them.

2nd. His arguments and appeals were calculated to communicate earnestness and vigor to every other good effort, inasmuch as he continually elevated a high standard of self-denial, philanthropy, benevolence, patriotism, and Christian duty.

3rd. His labors resulted in the immediate accession to the Temperance ranks of about 1000 persons, many of them influential, and not a few of them youths; and after paying Mr. Gough liberally, and all other expenses, there was a surplus of £72 left in the treasury towards defraying our heavy debt. We might add, as not the least important item in this list of benefits, that Mr. Gough has assured the Committee that he will allow no other engagement to interfere with his devoting three months to Canada, beginning in September next.

THE YOUNG MEN'S TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

At last Anniversary meeting, a resolution was adopted recommending the formation of a Young Men's Temperance Society, which began, by the zealous efforts of Rev. Mr. Cox and others, to be carried into effect that same night. This society has since been organized, and with the zeal and energy characteristic of youth, has held many public meetings throughout the year.—They have, in fact, been the working society, and into their hands this committee has willingly resigned the duty of getting up Temperance meetings in the city and suburbs. May they go on and prosper!

FINANCES.

Besides the surplus derived from Mr. Gough's lectures, the Committee have made an effort among themselves, and an earnest appeal to the public to relieve them from the balance of that once formidable debt, which they contracted in the service of the Province, and this appeal has, as will appear from the treasurer's report, been most liberally responded to; so that this Committee may once more be said to be free from debt.

THE TEMPERANCE ADVOCATE.

This old and valued organ of the Temperance cause in Canada, though no longer under the management of your committee, is regarded by them with peculiar interest, and they have much pleasure in expressing their satisfaction with the enterprising and able manner in which it is conducted. Its circulation is very large, but if the heads of families, throughout the Province consulted the true interests of their families, a copy would, we are convinced, be found in every home in Canada.

KINDRED SOCIETIES.

The information within our reach does not enable us to review the condition of kindred societies in this and other countries