

# The Saturday Evening Visitor ;

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DEVOTED TO TEMPERANCE, EDUCATION, MORALITY, &c. &c

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## THE TEMPERANCE SOIREE.

The Temperance Soirée in honor of the Birth of the Heir Apparent took place in the large hall over the St. Ann's Market, on the evening of Thursday last; it was one of the most splendid celebrations ever seen in Montreal. The coffee sipped and the usual number of recognitions, nods and smiles to the friends whom one found regaling themselves on the exhilarating article—over—on the company passed to the Grand Saloon, where the beauty and the fashion, as well as the worth and responsibility of Montreal, were assembled. Inside, at both sides of the entrance, the bands of the 55th and 23d, on raised platforms, were discoursing most eloquent music—and there was something like military precision in the steps of the crowd, which, three or four abreast, were marching in streams round the centre of the Hall. At the sides were placed seats and benches, where on entering, parties took refuge to prevent themselves from being swept into the current of promenaders. The room was quite full, but not too crowded, although containing probably not less than 1200 persons, all busily engaged in conversation, or in admiring the decorations of the apartment, or the still more agreeable and brilliant spectacle which was presented by the moving mass which met the eye on every side.

At the entrance was suspended the splendid Banner of the Mechanics' Institute, supported on either side by the United flags of the Montreal Light Infantry and second Battalion of Volunteers, and on the right and left the Bands of the 23d and 85th Regiments, in front of which were displayed Britannia and Scotia. At the head of the immense room was a fine transparency representing two families, the one suffering from the effects of Intemperance, and the other enjoying the blessings of Total Abstinence. This transparency was supported on each side by the Banners of St. George and St. Andrew. In the centre to the right was placed a large platform, decorated with evergreens, forming an elliptic arch, and directly over the chairman hung the British Arms, of exquisite beauty, tastefully arranged on either side were the splendid Banners of St. Patrick and the German Swan, and supported by the colours of the Light Infantry and 2d Battalion. Directly opposite the chair was a large pier glass surmounted by the Prince of Wales' plume, and on each side two smaller glasses supported by the British and Irish colours; on either side of the plume were two beautiful transparencies, the one representing the Queen representing the infant Prince to Britannia, and the other emblematical of the Navy, representing the Citadel of Quebec in the back ground. Each of these transparencies was supported by banners. There were two other beautiful temperance transparencies, on the right and left of the grand centre arch supported by national colours, and the whole room interspersed with elegant pier glasses, handsomely decorated, and presenting a most brilliant appearance.

A small raised platform was on one side near the middle

for the speakers, surrounded with evergreens, with the arms of England gleaming from amidst their freshness. Probably the most interesting moment to a spectator who could see the whole room, was that before the addresses were commenced—when every one was animated and in motion—2 or 300 young ladies all in their gayest dresses, with their most bewitching smiles thrown on all sides to their numerous acquaintances—groups of more matronly dames seated looking on—young gentlemen of all degrees looking perfectly contented with their partners, or by threes and fours waiting for the favourable instant when the revolving tide should give them an opportunity of offering an arm to some acquaintance—the bands playing—a profusion of lights suspended in rows from the ceiling. But after some remarks, A. Buchanan, Esq. Q. C., was called to the Chair, which he filled during the evening with as much ease as if he had been seated in his own parlor. Then followed Addresses—not delivered, however, without intermission, but interspersed with songs and music from the bands; "Rule Britannia" was sung in fine style and encored, the audience joining with great enthusiasm in the chorus, and at the close giving three cheers and one cheer more for our most gracious Queen. We cannot help noticing the particularly happy speech from his Honor the Mayor. At ten the company proceeded to supper. As to eatables there were sandwiches in plenty, with cakes, jellies, apples and other niceness. The ices were very fine, the drinkables were soda water, lemonade, &c. The company passed in at one door and went out at the other, their places being filled up by new comers. About eleven when all had supped, the promenading commenced for a time in the Assembly room, and soon after all dispersed to their several homes. The Temperance Soirée will not soon be forgotten, nor soon surpassed in Montreal.

From the Morning Courier.

This entertainment came off as had been promised, and proved all—more even—than had been expected. The knowledge that it was to some extent an experiment, had doubtless stimulated the Committee in their efforts, and certainly they have succeeded most satisfactorily in establishing, that as a means of rational and really healthful enjoyment, the new principle is as powerful as it has shown itself to be in overcoming a selfish and degrading habit. Henceforth Temperance assumes a new and less severe character. It will woo us with the fascination and splendour it calls to its aid. It will court us with music—with the smiles of the loveliest and most noble of the sex—with the rustle of rich brocades, and all the splendour of costume—with the glare of the illuminated hall and walls hung with banners and rich drapery, it will tempt the eye with its luxuriance, and the ear with the delicate repast of sweet-tongued instruments. Under this aspect it is the most cunningly devised medicine in the world, tempting ear, eye, and taste, with its delicacies, and yet winning its way. Laugh at it as prudish! why it is the pleasantest guest that calls together old and